United Nations A/55/169

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 75 (f) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The past year has been a period of intense work on substantive matters and vigorous fund-raising efforts for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. During the reporting period, the Centre implemented various projects in the programme of work drawn up in 1999 in consultation with Member States in the region. The programme of work contains activities dealing with both regional and subregional security issues, training and dissemination of information. Attention was particularly focused on activities related to the building of awareness on existing regional agreements — notably involving the diplomatic community, police forces and border patrol officers — in combating trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The organization of panels to inform parliamentarians of the need for and benefits of treaty ratification also occupied much of the Centre's attention in the second half of 1999. All of these projects have been carried out in cooperation and/or coordination with other regional agencies. Follow-up initiatives in these and other areas are being planned to take place as of late 2000 and the beginning of 2001.

* A/55/150.

** The present report covers the activities of the Regional Centre for the period from August 1999 to July 2000.

00-54972 (E) 230800

The Centre drew considerable attention during the inauguration of its new premises in Lima, on 1 December 1999. The occasion presented an excellent opportunity to promote the revitalization of the activities of the Centre and the role of the United Nations in security and development issues in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Pursuant to section III, paragraph 27 of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, the Centre sought to establish contacts with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and regional organizations, as well as with Member States within and outside the region, with a view to securing funding and laying the groundwork for cooperation between the Centre and Governments, regional entities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations. Despite the relative success achieved in this regard, the full functioning of the Centre is still hampered by the lack of sufficient resources for operational and administrative costs. It is hoped that, with the strong support of Member States, foundations and other donors, the viability of the Centre will be ensured in the forthcoming years.

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Functioning and mandate	4
III.	Activities	4
	A. Firearms, ammunition and explosives	4
	B. Conventional arms and peace operations	8
	C. Nuclear disarmament issues	8
	D. United Nations system activity	9
	E. Lectures and public relations	9
IV.	Finance and staffing	9
V.	Conclusions and observations	10
Annex		
	Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean covering the biennium 1998-1999	11

I. Introduction

1. On 1 December 1999, the General Assembly adopted, without a vote, resolution 54/55 F on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. By operative paragraphs 6 and 7 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide the Centre with all necessary support, within existing resources, to enable it to carry out its programme of activities, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. It is also submitted in pursuance of Assembly resolution 54/55 E of 1 December 1999 on the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities; and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report covers the activities and the financial situation of the Centre for the period from August 1999 to July 2000.

II. Functioning and mandate

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, located at Lima, was established in 1987, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 41/60 J of 3 December 1986. It functions under the auspices of the Department for Disarmament Affairs and is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities of the Member States of the region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament and for the promotion of economic and social development. The Centre functioned until the end of June 1996, when its operations were suspended owing to insufficient voluntary contributions to finance its activities and administrative costs. Following the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/220 of 22 December 1997, and his entry on duty on 1 December 1998, vigorous efforts have been launched to raise funds with a view to revitalizing the activities of the Centre.

4. In pursuit of its mandate, the Centre renewed its aim of serving the countries in the region as: (a) a means of promoting subregional, regional and cross-regional activities; (b) a tool to identify synergies between security and development issues; and (c) an instrument for the United Nations in playing a proactive role in the establishment of a more secure environment for social and economic development in the region.

III. Activities

5. In the beginning of the period under review, attention was focused on the preparation of the Centre's infrastructure, the identification of new premises and the setting up of appropriate installations for carrying out its activities. A new premises was inaugurated by high-level officials from the United Nations and the Government of Peru at a ceremony attended by the local diplomatic community on 1 December 1999. The Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs was present at the inauguration ceremony.

6. The Centre continued to develop contacts with potential partners in the region, as well as in Europe, North America and Africa, seeking possible cooperation with Governments and regional organizations, research institutes, academic institutions and individual experts, as well as United Nations national and regional offices. The Centre has also maintained cooperation and coordination with other United Nations agencies and entities. Most of the activities carried out during the period under review can be identified within five main areas: firearms, ammunition and explosives; conventional arms and peace operations; nuclear disarmament issues; United Nations system activities; and information and public events.

A. Firearms, ammunition and explosives

7. Several activities were carried out under the project entitled "Regional clearing-house on firearms, ammunition and explosives", which is an initiative intended to serve as a tool for nurturing national and regional expertise in the field of practical disarmament through the organization of workshops, training courses and preventive activities. The project promotes

such initiatives as collective and national efforts to control the legal trade in firearms and ammunition, and to curb the increasing illicit flow of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the region. An important aspect of the project is also directed to foster the sharing of experience and lessons learned within the region and elsewhere.

8. A comprehensive programme of events involving activities having a regional scope has been developed with different entities of the Organization of American States (OAS). For example, the Centre organized two awareness-building workshops in cooperation with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to promote the adoption of the provisions of the 1997 CICAD "Model regulations for the control of the international movement of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition", which governs the import, export and in-transit of firearms, their parts and ammunition in the region. These workshops brought together representatives from foreign ministries, police and customs institutions, CICAD, the regional office of the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and other interested countries. The first meeting took place in Lima, with the participation of 15 South American countries and Mexico. The second event, which was held in Fort-de-France, Martinique, on 23 and 24 May 2000, included 20 countries from Central America and the Caribbean, thus ensuring region-wide coverage.

9. The workshops provided an opportunity to examine the importance of the CICAD model regulations in the context of the implementation of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (A/53/78, annex). They also allowed for OAS and the United Nations to demonstrate how these new regulations would operate in practice, as well as to discuss procedures and modalities of the model regulations. The underlying conditions and responsibilities of Member States to make this control system work were also discussed, in particular, with respect to responsibilities dealing with record-keeping and information matters. Other issues discussed in the workshops involved national firearms and ammunition policies and practices and international cooperation and national inter-agency coordination to implement the model regulations.

10. As a follow-up to these workshops, a series of events aimed at enhancing regional capacity-building is scheduled to start in 2001 within the framework of the clearing-house project. These events, entitled "Curbing illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives in Latin America and the Caribbean: training police and customs officer instructors", will offer an opportunity for the Centre to initiate a second phase of cooperation and coordination of activities with CICAD, as well as with various national government institutions, subregional and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and different sectors of civil society. Consultations have already started between CICAD and the Centre on the development of a memorandum of understanding that will set the legal framework for joint cooperation in the future.

11. The reactivation of the Centre has also provided CICAD with the opportunity to discuss in detail other security issues with a United Nations regional field office charged with peace and disarmament matters. For example, the Centre undertook consultations with CICAD on the status of the issue of explosives in the region, pursuant to a recommendation made in 1997 by the CICAD expert group on the model regulations, which called upon CICAD to establish "a close working relationship with the United Nations and other international, regional and governmental bodies carrying out similar work".

12. A meeting between these institutions was organized on 25 November 1999 in Lima, with the objective of examining the CICAD Expert Group's recommendation on the establishment of "... a group of experts with specific knowledge of explosives to review and examine in depth that subject and explosive accessories with a view to developing model regulations for their control". The discussion also covered the current status of the debate on "explosives" both at the regional and global levels; the identification of ways and means to prepare a background paper that could be useful to both the regional and global deliberation on explosives; the development of a calendar of meetings; and the identification of potential technical and financial contributors to undertake such a study. It concluded that it was premature to organize any event in the area of explosives and that it would be more appropriate first to consolidate the joint work of CICAD and the Regional Centre in the areas of firearms, their parts and ammunition, leaving aside

possible cooperation on the issue of explosives for a later date.

13. On 7 March 2000, the Centre participated in a meeting organized by the Organization of American States Committee on Hemispheric Security in Washington, D.C., pursuant to a request by OAS in its resolution AG/RES.1642 (XXIX-0/99) entitled "Proliferation of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons". The Director of the Centre made a presentation on the activities of the Centre in the area of firearms, ammunitions and explosives. The meeting presented an opportunity for the Centre to inform the Committee about the cooperation with CICAD and to explain the importance of regional cooperation with a view to avoiding duplication and maximizing results in a constrained financial environment. In addition, the participation of the Centre in this meeting complemented efforts by the United Nations to provide OAS with information on United Nations actions in the area of small arms and light weapons in different continents, in particular, in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the Centre's participation in initiatives undertaken by the Regional Centre at Lomé.

14. The Centre also attended, as observer, the first regular meeting of the Consultative Committee to the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials. All 10 countries that have ratified the Convention to date attended the meeting, as well as some signatory parties who were invited as observers. One important feature of this meeting was the proposal made by the representatives of CICAD for the development of a training programme on the 1997 firearms model regulations. In this context, the Centre was mentioned in the proposal as a key partner in the work of CICAD to implement the model regulations, which indicated the role that the United Nations is expected to play in Latin America and the Caribbean.

15. The Centre was invited to attend the twenty-sixth regular session of CICAD in Montevideo, from 5 to 7 October 1999. The session addressed issues primarily related to counter-drug programmes and also matters related to the narcotics issue, such as firearms. The workshop presented an opportunity for the Centre to discuss cooperation with representatives of the CICAD secretariat, delegations to the workshop, as well as with the French Interministerial Drug Control Training Centre (CIFAD). As a result of these discussions, CICAD, CIFAD and the Regional Centre have developed a cooperative strategy to organize awareness-building workshops for law enforcement and customs officers in the area of firearms, their parts and ammunition. A first such meeting took place a few months later, on 23 and 24 May 2000, in Fort-de-France, Martinique, as reported above.

16. At the national level, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia organized a meeting on 10 December 1999 between the Foreign Ministry, the Administrative Department of Security of Colombia and the Centre to discuss issues related to illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The meeting, which was attended by representatives of different agencies working on the issue of illicit trafficking and the control of firearms, focused on Colombian firearms control laws, the need for a better flow of information on illicit trafficking in firearms, integrated inter-agency database requirements, and the Centre's activities related to the project on the regional clearing-house on firearms, ammunition and explosives. Attention was also directed to the Centre's cooperation with CICAD and the future development of databases on firearms import, export and in-transit controls and national legislation, as well as the role of Interpol databases on firearms and information retrieval.

17. Specific requests and recommendations were made at the meeting, notably, a request on the part of Colombian representatives for the Centre to assist Colombian institutions in the area of databases on illicit trafficking in firearms. The Colombian request will be considered in the context of the Centre's cooperation on the development of databases with CICAD. The Centre recommended that information on illicit trafficking should be issued as a special publication of the Centre to demonstrate the magnitude and nature of the illicit trafficking into Colombia.

18. On 14 February 2000, the representative of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) in Peru met with the Director of the Centre to discuss possible areas of cooperation. As a result of these discussions, UNDCP invited the Centre to develop a joint project to train and equip Peruvian customs officers in order to enhance border controls and the Government's capability to curb illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms and ammunitions. A follow-up meeting between the two United Nations entities and the Peruvian customs authority took place

on 17 February 2000, and a draft prospectus was prepared and presented to donor countries by UNDCP in Vienna. A reply was expected during the second half of the year 2000, following which a delegation consisting of both United Nations entities and representatives of the Government of Peru and of donor countries will meet to develop the details of a project entitled "Improved customs control over cross-border traffic to reduce the illicit traffic in drugs, firearms and ammunition".

19. Responding to a request made by Chile, the Centre organized a meeting on 11 April 2000, with representatives of UNDCP, the Chilean Embassy and the Centre to discuss the possible development of a project on illicit trafficking in drugs, firearms, and ammunitions in the border area between Chile and Peru. A follow-up meeting is expected to take place later in the year to draft the project and to discuss financial and practical matters related to its implementation. This initiative aims to avoid duplication and enhance the use of available expertise and funds by applying United Nations policies through inter-agency and interdepartmental coordination and/or cooperation.

20. The Centre has also initiated cooperation with the Untied Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNDCP to develop a project aimed at reducing access to firearms and drugs by adolescent groups in metropolitan Lima. The project will constitute the first inter-agency preventive initiative in this area. It will also direct much of its work at the fostering of sustainable development opportunities. The three agencies will complement each other's activities and together enhance the work of the United Nations and NGOs in the field. Over a period of three years, this pilot project will also take into consideration some of the lessons learned during the UNDP/Department for Disarmament Affairs Albania project. If funding is assured, the project is planned to be launched in August 2000.

21. In an effort to pursue a policy of transregional cross-fertilization, the Centre participated in a workshop entitled "Database and arms register", on 23 and 24 September 1999 in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa in cooperation with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED). The objective of this cooperation was to bring the experience of the Organization of American States' legal instruments on firearms, ammunition and explosives to West Africa, with a view to contributing to the creation of a light weapons register in that subregion.

22. The different articles of the CICAD 1997 firearms model regulations were explained in detail and discussed in working groups, providing the real-life experience of a regional effort to improve control of imports, export, and in-transit of firearms, their parts and ammunition. The discussion of the Latin American and the Caribbean experience therefore enriched the African debate and contributed to the conception of a unique approach to register the flow of light weapons in West Africa. ECOWAS delegates invited the Centre and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) to become associate members of a newly created expert group that would examine in detail practical issues to develop an arms register and a database for the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa (A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex). The first meeting of this expert group took place in early 2000.

23. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa also hosted the first consultation between the Regional Centres at Lima and Lomé with the participation of SIPRI to discuss the development of on-line databases on firearms. The initiative is aimed at helping the implementation of the Centres' regional clearing-house projects. SIPRI, which developed the on-line version of the Database on Research Institutes (DATARIS) for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), is expected to develop software applications to provide intra- and transregional information-sharing of legal documents and law enforcement procedures to better control the legal flow of firearms, ammunition and explosives and to curb their illicit flow. A first database (LegalDoc) is planned to regroup legal information on the national law of countries in both regions. A second database (IFITData) will be directed to provide information on institutions fighting illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives. The development of other databases is under discussion.

B. Conventional arms and peace operations

24. On 19 May 2000, the Centre organized a workshop entitled "Military perspective of regional security: consultations with Lima military attachés". The workshop was the first in a series of events aimed at creating a platform for diplomats, military personnel and other interested groups in Lima to discuss a variety of issues related to the mandate of the Centre. The workshop provided an opportunity, inter alia, for presentations to be made on the Centre's programme of activities, political and military visions of the role of the United Nations in enhancing regional security, and on new cooperation opportunities in peace operations. The workshop also addressed potential military contributions to confidence- and security-building measures in the region and training opportunities in cooperative military-related matters.

25. The workshop concluded with a series of recommendations aimed at further enhancing the cooperation between the military and the diplomatic community, as well as with the United Nations.

C. Nuclear disarmament issues

26. Together with the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the Government of Peru, the Centre organized a seminar entitled "Disarmament and security: a new agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean in the next millennium" on 1 December 1999 in Lima. The seminar, attended by high-level officials and other representatives from several countries within and outside the region, provided an opportunity to evaluate the disarmament initiatives of the last decade and to reflect upon the prospects for a new Latin American and Caribbean security agenda for the future. Particular focus was placed on Latin American and Caribbean security concerns as expressed at the General Assembly and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. Attention was also directed towards current and prospective multilateral agreements and the role that countries in the region could play to strengthen security concepts and initiatives, including issues related to weapons of mass destruction and conventional arms, but also anti-personnel landmines and confidence-building measures. The seminar also assessed the role that non-governmental organizations, research institutes, the media and other entities of civil society could play in the strengthening of national and regional security.

27. On 2 November 1999, the Centre and the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) participated in a hearing of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Chilean Senate on ratification of the Treaty as a first meeting of their joint pilot project entitled "Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty parliamentary information panel". Subsequently, on 9 December 1999, the Centre and CTBTO Provisional Technical Secretariat briefed representatives of the Colombian Congress on the same issue. The objective of these briefings was to inform the Chilean and Colombian parliamentarians of the need to ratify the Treaty and the benefits of doing so. These briefings were followed by a question-and-answer session addressing issues of a political, technical and financial nature, mostly related to matters of sovereignty, access to information acquired by detection stations in the Treaty's international monitoring system and the impact of the vote in the Senate of the United States of America not to ratify the Treaty, as well as other non-proliferation issues in general.

28. The pilot project on the Treaty served two useful purposes: first, to raise awareness of the need for countries in the region to ratify the Treaty; and, secondly, to clarify issues related to the Treaty. The Chilean Foreign Ministry informed the Centre that the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations had approved the ratification of the Treaty in a closed-door session weeks after the 2 November hearing. The Colombian Foreign Ministry has also informed the Regional Centre that a draft ratification project has been prepared for the next session of its Congress. A follow-up phase II project has been planned for the second half of the year 2000 and the Government of Austria has pledged to continue financing of this initiative.

29. On 8 February 2000, a staff member of the Centre participated in a video conference between high-level representatives of the United States and Peru regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The video conference was attended by military attachés from different countries in Lima. The debate addressed the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty, the general difficulties in ratifying existing treaties, reaching new agreements, and the decision of the United States Congress not to ratify the

Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The video conference was useful in enhancing the Centre's role in fostering debate on nuclear issues between Governments and other institutions.

D. United Nations system activity

30. The Director of the Centre represented the Department for Disarmament Affairs at the second general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and its associate institutes, held on 27 and 28 March 2000, in Nassau, the Bahamas. The objective of this meeting was to review the implementation of the decisions reached in 1997 at the first general meeting between representatives of the United Nations system and of CARICOM and its associate institutes, and to examine new areas of common interest. The meeting also identified some areas of cooperation where the Centre could play a role in assisting United Nations/CARICOM relations, notably with respect to possible United Nations inter-agency cooperation in the area of illicit and legal trade in firearms, ammunition and explosives.

E. Lectures and public relations

31. During the period under review, the Centre participated in a number of information and commemorative events. At the initiative of the Government of Peru, in its capacity as President of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC), the Director of the Centre made a presentation of the Centre's activities at the GRULAC meeting in October 1999 at United Nations Headquarters. It was also the first time that the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs addressed the Group. The meeting presented a useful opportunity for Member States to be briefed on the Centre's activities in detail.

32. Other public events attended by the Centre included the launching of two new disarmament stamps by the Peruvian postal authority on 5 November 1999; the inauguration of a United Nations Park in the municipality of La Molina, Lima; lectures at the Peruvian Armed Forces National Centre for Higher Studies on 11 April and 30 May 2000; a ceremony on 27 November 1999, in Lima, as part of a United Nations system delegation in a commemorative act to present the United Nations plates to Peruvian officials in recognition of their "permanent support for the United Nations agencies, and the maintenance of peace and security of the population in the country". On 13 January 2000, a representative of the Centre addressed the Research Seminar of the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden, on possible areas of cooperation between the two institutions.

IV. Finance and staffing

33. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 41/60 J, the Centre was established on the basis of existing resources and of voluntary contributions that Member States and interested organizations might make to that end.

34. During the reporting period August 1999 to July 2000, voluntary contributions in the amount of $168,147 were received. In addition, a number of Governments and institutions contributed to the work of the Centre by sharing or absorbing the costs of joint events, personnel and/or material resources. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Austria, Brazil, Chile, France, Germany, Mexico, Norway and Sweden for their generous support and to the Government of Peru, the host country, for its substantial contribution to and generous support for the Centre, especially with regard to securing new premises for the Centre. The status of the Trust Fund for the Regional Centre covering the biennium 1998-1999 appears in the annex to the present report.

35. An intensive fund-raising campaign was initiated by the Director of the Centre in the year 2000. The purpose of this effort was threefold: to report on the utilization of funds and past activities; to learn more about the interest of donor countries in the region; and to seek new contributions. Over 30 countries, institutes and foundations were approached for financial assistance. In total, besides visits to most embassies in Lima, close to 25 foreign ministries were contacted in the first semester of 2000.

36. At present, the Centre operates with some administrative support from the UNDP Office in Lima. Besides the Director, the Centre includes one associate expert from Sweden and four local staff members provided by the host Government. Another associate

expert has been pledged by the Government of Belgium. However, adequate funding for administrative and operational costs has yet to be found.

37. In spite of the relative success in fund-raising for 1999, the financial situation of the Centre remains precarious. Aside from the contributions made by the host Government and the Government of Sweden, no continual funding has been pledged. The Secretary-General therefore strongly supports and reiterates the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/55 F to Member States in each region and to those that are able to do so, as well as to intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to enable it to strengthen and implement its programme of activities.

V. Conclusions and observations

38. The activities of the Regional Centre have served to facilitate the implementation of regional initiatives, stimulate regional security debates, provide members of parliaments with more in-depth information on security matters, as well as promote the dissemination of information on security issues among diplomats, the military, NGOs and civil society. It has also contributed to the coordination of United Nations efforts towards peace and security in the region.

39. The Centre has now acquired a basic infrastructure, launched projects aimed at furthering the understanding of the relationship between security and development, enhanced the role of the Organization as a regional catalyst for activities on peace and disarmament, and acted as a politically neutral platform for discussions on security and development issues. The Centre has demonstrated, through its programme of activities, its own capacity as a strong focal point for peace, disarmament and development issues for Governments, non-governmental and regional organizations, and the diverse sectors of civil society in the region.

40. The Secretary-General looks to the continued support and cooperation of Member States to ensure the Centre's effective functioning as a focal point for regional security issues and the promotion of economic and social development in the region.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean covering the biennium 1998-1999

	United States dollars
I. Fund balance, 31 December 1997	46 808
II. Income, 1 January 1998-31 December 1999	
Voluntary contributions*	177 447
Interest income	7 921
Miscellaneous income	2 026
Subtotal	**187 394**
III. Expenditures	
1 January 1998-31 December 1999	102 894
Prior period adjustments (gain)	1 370
Subtotal	**101 524**
IV. Fund balance, 31 December 1999	132 678

Note: This information is based on the financial statement for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1999. During the period from 1 January to 30 June 2000, additional contributions totalling $50,000 were received from Peru ($30,000) and Sweden ($20,000).

* 1998: Colombia ($886) and Norway ($5,000); 1999: Austria ($10,000), Brazil ($20,000), Chile ($10,000), Colombia ($938), France ($8,483), Germany ($5,000), Mexico ($2,500), Norway ($32,140), Panama ($2,500), Peru ($60,000) and Sweden ($20,000).

United Nations A/55/170

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 75 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Review and Implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

Since its establishment in May 1992, the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa has been carrying out a series of activities aimed at fostering and strengthening peace, security and stability in the Central African region, through confidence-building measures. In this connection, during the period under review, in addition to its two ministerial meetings, the Committee organized a subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms in Central Africa. The conference was seen as an opportunity for the Central African States to develop a plan of action that would assist them to effectively address this problem. Central African States are ranked among the worst affected countries in the world. However, owing to the ongoing armed conflicts within some of the member States of the Committee, the conference was not able to devise a plan of action. Instead, it made a number of recommendations of measures that could be implemented at the national and regional levels.

* A/55/150.

** This report covers the activities undertaken by the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa from September 1999 to June 2000.

00-54958 (E) 210800

While the conference failed to achieve its primary objective, it is encouraging to note that some of the countries in the region, notably Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Chad, are working on a joint project to address this problem along their common borders. On the other hand, countries such as the Congo have sought the assistance of the United Nations with the collection and destruction of illicit small arms on their territory.

Following the decision of the Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), in June 1999, to establish a Supreme Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), the Committee has been working very closely with the secretariat of ECCAS to ensure the implementation of that decision. In this connection, in February 2000, the Committee, through its Trust Fund, financed a meeting of experts that was tasked with revising the text of the Treaty establishing ECCAS with a view to integrating COPAX into the structures of ECCAS. The Committee also followed developments in individual member States and lent its support, wherever needed.

I. Introduction

1. In 1991, noting the devastation that decades of continued armed and political conflicts were wreaking on their communities and economies and following the decision taken at their seminar-workshop on confidence-building measures, security, disarmament and development in the Central African subregion, held in Yaoundé from 17 to 21 June 1991 (see A/46/307-S/22805), the Governments of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) sought the assistance and support of the General Assembly to establish a mechanism for dialogue and confidence-building that would allow them to build peace and security and foster economic development in their region.

2. Accordingly, on 6 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/37 B, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by the States members of ECCAS with a view to developing confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion, by, in particular, the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa. Subsequently, on 28 May 1992, the Secretary-General established the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. Since its creation, the Standing Advisory Committee has been involved in developing and promoting measures in the fields of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-building. Every year, the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report on the activities of the Committee to the General Assembly.

3. In its resolution 54/55 A of 1 December 1999, on the activities of the Standing Advisory Committee, the General Assembly, inter alia, reaffirmed its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures in order to ease tensions and conflicts and to further peace, stability and sustainable development in Central Africa. It welcomed the creation on 25 February 1999, by the Heads of State and Government of the Central African countries, of a mechanism for the promotion, maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in Central Africa called the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and code-named COPAX (see A/53/868-S/1999/303). In this connection, the Assembly emphasized the importance of providing the States members of the Committee with the necessary support to allow them to fully carry out their activities. By the same resolution, the Assembly also requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa and to provide the necessary support to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in making operational the recently established early-warning mechanism. Furthermore, it requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the States members of the Committee with assistance and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of that resolution.

4. The present report is therefore submitted pursuant to resolution 54/55 A. It covers the activities undertaken by the United Nations and the Standing Advisory Committee since the submission of the last report of the Secretary-General (A/54/364). During the reporting period, the Secretary-General closely followed developments in the region and continued to provide the Committee and its member States with all the necessary support to allow them to carry out their primary objective, that of strengthening national and regional peace and security through confidence-building measures in the region.

II. Action by the United Nations

5. At its fourth ministerial meeting, held in Yaoundé, Cameroon, in April 1994, the Standing Advisory Committee decided to establish under the auspices of the United Nations, a Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and designated Cameroon as the seat of that centre. Pursuant to that decision in November 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/78 A of 4 December 1998 by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to lend their support to the establishment of the centre. That request was reiterated in General Assembly resolution 54/55A of 1 December 1999.

6. On 18 February 2000, by its resolution 54/249 on questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Assembly decided to appropriate 1 million dollars to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. Meanwhile, in accordance with paragraph 9 of

resolution 54/55, from 4 to 11 June 2000, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Department of Political Affairs, in cooperation with the UNDP Office and the United Nations Information Centre in Cameroon, carried out a joint needs assessment and project formulation mission in Yaoundé. The mission recommended, inter alia, the rapid deployment of a human rights adviser to be based in Yaoundé, with a view to assisting in the establishment of the Centre and to initiating a dialogue with the secretariat of ECCAS for the purpose of integrating human rights into its programmes and activities.

7. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights developed a subregional strategy aimed at enhancing the promotion and protection of human rights in Central Africa and the Great Lakes region. Its implementation includes, inter alia: (a) dialogue with the secretariat of ECCAS with a view to integrating human rights into the work of its organs and strengthening ECCAS human rights capacities and developing a subregional plan of action for human rights; (b) establishment of a subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa; (c) organization of a subregional Workshop on National Plans of Action in the field of human rights for Central African States; and (d) deployment of a regional human rights adviser for the subregion who will facilitate technical cooperation and develop cooperation in the field of human rights among the Central African States (November/December 2000).

8. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has approved a technical cooperation project to support these activities. It is planned that the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy will be launched in autumn 2000. The Centre will play a key role in the promotion of human rights at the subregional level. Among other things, it will assist the countries of the subregion in sharing expertise, promote good practices and link the efforts of the partners involved. The Centre will also help to train officials engaged in administering human rights matters, extend support to establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions and raise awareness about human rights norms.

9. In addition to the various initiatives mentioned above, during the reporting period, the Secretary-General was also invited to a number of meetings organized by the Standing Advisory Committee. For instance, in October 1999, he sent his then Special Representative to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA), Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, to represent him at the twelfth ministerial meeting of the Committee, which was held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 27 to 30 October 1999. In May 2000, he had the United Nations Resident Coordinator for Chad, Mr. Hamidou Diawara, deliver his message to the thirteenth ministerial meeting of the Committee, held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 2 to 6 May 2000.

III. Meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee

10. During the reporting period, the Committee held two ministerial meetings, a subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms in Central Africa and co-organized with the secretariat of ECCAS a meeting of experts to examine the draft texts on integrating COPAX into the structures of ECCAS.

11. In response to the concerns repeatedly expressed at its various meetings regarding the devastating effects of excessive accumulation of small arms in Central Africa and their spread among the population, the Committee organized a subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms in Central Africa (see A/54/530-S/1999/1141). The Conference, which was held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 25 to 27 October 1999, brought together senior civilian members of government services, senior officers in the armed forces and senior police officers from the Central African States as well as experts from the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and other subregional organizations in Africa and Latin America.

12. The Conference examined the magnitude of the problem in the region and its impact on the stability, security and development of the countries of the region and efforts being made at the national and subregional levels to address the problem. It also reviewed the experiences of other regions and the activities of international organizations. The Conference culminated with the adoption of a number of recommendations aimed at promoting national and subregional practical measures for combating the problem.

13. At its twelfth ministerial meeting, also held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 27 to 30 October, the Committee endorsed the recommendations of the

Conference and congratulated participants on the relevance and quality of their conclusions (see A/54/530-S/1999/1141). As is usual practice, during the course of the meeting, it reviewed the geopolitical and security situation in the Central African region. In that connection, it expressed concern over the continued refusal of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to comply with the terms of the 1994 Lusaka Protocol and of the relevant Security Council resolutions and urged member States of the Committee to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Angola and, in particular, of the sanctions against UNITA.

14. With regard to the situation in Burundi, the Committee welcomed the positive developments in that country and, in particular, the Government's partnership with the country's political forces, and expressed the hope that that political understanding would be further strengthened. It appealed to the international community to resume its economic ties with Burundi. On the situation in Cameroon, the Committee expressed deep concern at the continuing incidents between Cameroon and Nigeria on the Bakassi Peninsula and called upon the two countries to refrain from any action that might heighten tensions while awaiting the decision of the International Court of Justice. With regard to the situation in the Congo, the Committee welcomed the gradual restoration of peace in that county and reiterated its appeal to the people of the Congo to strive for peace and national harmony. Regarding the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Committee expressed concern over the continued attacks on the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of that country. It welcomed the signing of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815, annex) and the progress made in the establishment of the various international mechanisms stipulated in the Agreement and urgently appealed to all parties involved to respect scrupulously the terms of the Agreement. Concerning the situation in the Central African Republic, the Committee welcomed the gradual restoration of peace and security to that country and the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of MINURCA until 15 February 2000.

15. In response to the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS at their Summit held in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, on 24 June 1999, to integrate COPAX into the structures of ECCAS, the Committee decided to convene, in cooperation with ECCAS, a special meeting of experts from the region with a view to preparing the draft texts for the integration of COPAX into the structures of ECCAS. The meeting, which was held in Malabo from 14 to 17 February 2000, drafted the Protocol on the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and the Mutual Assistance Pact between the Member States of ECCAS. The Heads of State and Government of ECCAS adopted the two documents at a subsequent summit, which was also held in Malabo, on 24 February 2000. In a communiqué issued at the end of that summit, the Heads of State and Government of the ECCAS countries, noting the importance and urgency of security questions in their region, committed themselves to the speedy ratification of the two documents so as to allow their entry into force as quickly as possible.

16. With COPAX now fully integrated into the structures of ECCAS, the Committee welcomed the adoption by the Heads of State and Government of the ECCAS countries of the Protocol concerning COPAX and the Mutual Assistance Pact at its thirteenth ministerial meeting, which was held in N'Djamena, Chad, from 2 to 6 May 2000 (see A/54/889-S/2000/506). To accelerate the process of rendering COPAX operational, the Committee decided to convene in Yaoundé, Cameroon, during the second half of June 2000, a meeting of experts from member States in order to consider the proposed legislative mandates of the various structures of COPAX, which include the early-warning mechanism, the Central African Multinational Force (FOMAC) and the Defence Commission for the Central African countries, for consideration at the next Summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS countries. However, the meeting was subsequently held under the auspices of ECCAS in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, from 19 to 22 June.

17. Meanwhile, on 4 July 2000, the President of Equatorial Guinea, Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, current Chairman of ECCAS, addressed letters to the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, requesting the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, of an item on cooperation between the United Nations and ECCAS, along the lines similar to those on cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States and between the

United Nations and the Southern African Development Community. Such cooperation would enable ECCAS to play a more prominent role in peace and security matters in its region as well as enhance its relations with the United Nations.

18. With regard to its programme of work for the period under review, the Committee has yet to convene the Subregional Conference on the Problem of Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in the Central African Region or its fourteenth ministerial meeting, to be held concurrently in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 14 to 19 August 2000.

IV. Programme and activities for 2000-2001

19. While its programme of activities for the period 2000-2001 is being drawn up, the Committee will, as in the past, continue to work on the implementation of important decisions taken during previous years. In this connection, and given the importance that Heads of State and Government of ECCAS countries attach to the functioning of COPAX, priority will be given to assisting ECCAS to render the various structures of COPAX operational. It is expected that the full programme of activities for the period 2000-2001 will be elaborated at the fourteenth ministerial meeting.

V. Administrative and financial matters

20. While member States of the Committee would have preferred to have its secretariat located in one of the member States of the Committee, owing to lack of financial resources, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has continued to provide the Committee with secretariat services. With regard to the financial matters of the Committee, during the period under review, the General Assembly provided funding from the regular budget for the two ministerial meetings, while the subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms in Central Africa and the expert meeting held in February 2000 were financed from the Trust Fund of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, established by the Secretary-General in 1996. The Trust Fund, which relies on voluntary contributions from Members States and governmental and non-governmental organizations as well as private individuals, did not receive any contributions during this reporting period. In this regard, the Secretary-General wishes to appeal to Member States, and to the international community as a whole, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund so as to facilitate the effective implementation of the programme of work of the Committee.

VI. Conclusions and observations

21. The Central African States have made significant progress in their efforts to build a viable subregional organization with unity of purpose, that of promoting durable peace and sustainable development in their region, as demonstrated by the recent integration of COPAX into ECCAS structures and the adoption of the Mutual Assistance Pact. It is hoped that, once the various structures of COPAX start functioning, the region will begin to reap the peace dividends. It is also encouraging to note the number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives undertaken to promote regional and intergovernmental cooperation in security matters, aimed, in particular, at lessening tensions and combating insecurity in the border areas, as well as making it possible to have exchanges between the various national structures dealing with these questions. There is a growing recognition among these States that, in order for their region to attain durable peace and sustainable development, they need to look at each other before turning to forces outside their region for assistance. At the international level, they have begun to present a joint position on issues that have a bearing on their region.

22. Notwithstanding the progress made, in order for them to consolidate the gains made so far, the Central African States will continue to need increased and sustained international support and assistance. In this connection, it is imperative that the international community extend to them all the necessary financial and technical assistance that they need in order to render COPAX operational. For his part, the Secretary-General will continue to provide all the assistance he can.

United Nations A/55/171

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 July 2000

Original: English

Fifth-fifth session
Item 75 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report covers the period from September 1999 to July 2000. It focuses on the functioning of the Regional Centre, its activities, staffing and financial situation.

The reporting takes place against the background of the revitalization process of the Centre towards which its current activities are geared. It should be stressed that the Centre continues to experience considerable financial difficulties due mainly to the lack of voluntary contributions on the basis of which it was established. The current revitalization process requested by Member States has yet to ensure the kind of financial support that will be forthcoming from them in order for the Centre to face, head on, the growing challenges to peace and security, in an environment where light weapons and small arms have become a major cause of concern for the continent. Since his appointment, in December 1998, the Director of the Centre has been pursuing a vigorous fund-raising programme. While a number of donors have made financial contributions to the activities of the Centre, the costs of staffing and operation remain a concern.

During the reporting period, the Centre strengthened its cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and provided substantive support for the initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the implementation of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament. It also

* A/55/150.

** This report covers the activities of the Regional Centre for the period from September 1999 to July 2000.

00-54952 (E) 280800

initiated working relations with subregional organizations including the Economic Community of West African States, the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of Central African States. Substantive support to African Governments for the realization of peace-related activities included the gauging of the socio-political context within which weapons collection programmes could be carried out in Guinea Bissau and backstopping the arms control efforts in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger and Togo. The Centre continues to serve as the operational and policy framework for the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED). It provides support for the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa, and to ECCAS for the implementation of peace and security activities, particularly under the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. The Centre also participated, during the reporting period, in several conferences and seminars, including the seventy-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa and the Conference on the proliferation of small arms in the Greater Horn and Great Lakes region. The host country agreement was signed with the Government of Togo in November 1999 during the visit of the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs to Togo.

While a number of Member States have made financial pledges in support of the implementation of the work programme of the Centre, as endorsed by the African Group of States at the United Nations, the Centre continues to experience financial, staffing and operational difficulties which impair its full functioning. The Secretary-General wishes to thank those Member States that have already made contributions to the Centre, encourage them to make additional contributions and continues to appeal to those Member States that have not yet done so to make voluntary contributions to the Centre.

Contents

		Paragraphs	*Page*
I.	Introduction	1–2	3
II.	Functioning of the Centre	3–4	3
III.	Objectives and activities of the Centre	5–33	3
IV.	Staffing, financing and administration	34–37	7
Annex			
	Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa covering the biennium 1998-1999		9

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/55 B of 1 December 1999, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue to provide the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa with all necessary support, within existing resources, for better achievements and results; to facilitate the establishment of close cooperation between the Regional Centre and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), in particular in the area of peace, security and development, and to continue to assist the Director of the Regional Centre in his efforts to stabilize the financial situation of the Centre and revitalize its activities; and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution. The report is also submitted in pursuance of Assembly resolution 54/55 E of 1 December 1999 on the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the regional centres in carrying out their programmes of activities and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution.

2. The report covers the period from September 1999 to July 2000.

II. Functioning of the Centre

3. The Centre was established in 1986 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 40/151 G of 16 December 1985. Its headquarters is located at Lomé, Togo. The Centre functions within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs which ensures its supervision and acts as the focal point for coordinating the inputs of the pertinent organs, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to the Centre's activities.

4. As a first step towards revitalizing the Centre, the Director was appointed by the Secretary-General on 1 December 1998. In spite of insufficient financial resources, the Centre continues its revitalization process in the priority areas that were discussed and endorsed by the African Group of States of the United Nations in January 1999. They include: support for peace initiatives in Africa; arms control and disarmament; and information, research and publication.

III. Objectives and activities of the Centre

5. The Centre continued to carry out its mandate as contained in paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 40/151 G. According to its mandate, the Centre shall provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other efforts of Member States of the African region towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitation and disarmament in the region, in cooperation with OAU, as well as coordinate the implementation of regional activities in Africa under the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

6. During the reporting period, the Centre, despite financial constraints, continued to fulfil its mandate as far as possible by contributing to efforts to promote wider understanding and cooperation among African States in the areas of peace, disarmament and security. In this connection, it expanded its contacts and cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and other relevant United Nations bodies.

7. The Centre continued to publish and disseminate its quarterly bilingual publication, the *African Peace Bulletin* (*Bulletin africain de la paix*), which focuses on relevant developments in the field of peace, security and disarmament and related issues, mainly in the African region. It has substantially improved the quality, quantity and format of the *Bulletin*. In order to facilitate the dissemination of information on the Centre, a brochure containing basic information on the Centre was published and is being distributed widely. Work is also being finalized on the Centre's web site as an additional tool for information dissemination.

8. In collaboration with the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Government of Ghana, the Centre organized a workshop on the modalities of the establishment of an arms register and database on 23 and 24 September 1999 in Accra, Ghana. The workshop was recommended by the ECOWAS Ministers of Foreign Affairs during their meeting on 24 and 25 March 1999 in Bamako when they adopted the

Plan of Action for the Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and Development (PCASED).

9. In its capacity as the operational and policy framework for PCASED, the Centre held a meeting in Abuja, Nigeria from 16 to 26 October 1999, in collaboration with the Department for International Development, representing the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and officials from the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat. The objective of the meeting was to review the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa (A/53/763-S/1998/1194, annex) in an effort to strengthen the capacities of PCASED and the ECOWAS Executive Secretariat in enforcing the Moratorium; and to determine the priority areas that needed external, financial, material or technical assistance that could be provided by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and other donors. The meeting also reviewed the draft code of conduct for the implementation of the Moratorium, which was adopted by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government during the 10 December 1999 Summit in Lomé, Togo.

10. From 25 to 27 October 1999 in N'Djamena, Chad, the Centre provided substantive support to the twelfth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and the subregional conference on the proliferation of and illicit traffic in small arms in Central Africa (see A/54/530-S/1999/1141).

11. In Guinea-Bissau, the Centre assisted the Department of Political Affairs and the United Nations Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) in formulating a project document on the basis of a fact-finding mission which it carried out in Guinea-Bissau in October and November 1999, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1233 (1999) of 6 April 1999. The aim was to encourage the Government and other interested parties towards the collection, neutralization and destruction of small arms. This mission, led by the Director of the Centre, had assessed the socio-political context within which a weapons collection programme could be carried out. It had suggested that the "food for weapons" collection method should be supplemented by "weapons for development" and "disarmament through persuasion" methods. The Centre also drew up the draft budget of the programme, which has now been submitted for consideration to donors and the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament. The Centre is expected to play a technical role in the implementation of the programme once the required funding becomes available.

12. From 16 to 18 November 1999, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs visited Togo and Mali. While in Togo, he signed the host country agreement with the Government of Togo, met with the President and the Prime Minister and held working sessions with the Foreign Minister. In Bamako, he met with the President for Mali and the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He also addressed the diplomatic community in Mali on current disarmament and security issues.

13. The Centre organized the second session of the Advisory Group of PCASED in Lomé on 22 and 23 November 1999. The meeting reviewed the progress achieved in the work of PCASED during its first six months of existence and adopted a programme of work for the next six months.

14. In an effort to strengthen relations and cooperation with subregional intergovernmental organizations on the continent, the Director of the Centre visited Botswana from 1 to 3 December 1999, where he held talks with senior officials of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). With support from the European Union, SADC is in the process of negotiating among its member States a small arms protocol (combating illicit trafficking, strengthening legal controls on accumulation and transfer of small arms, promoting the removal of arms from society and the destruction of same, and enhancing transparency, information exchange and consultation on arms).

15. From 6 to 10 December 1999, the Centre participated in the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), at which the Director of the Centre, in his capacity as Director of the PCASED project, presented a progress report on the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa and of PCASED. In their final report submitted to the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, the Ministers commended the Centre for the role it had been playing in supporting ECOWAS in the implementation of the Moratorium.

16. Prior to and during the Summit, the Centre also provided assistance in the finalization of the Code of Conduct for the implementation of the Moratorium as well as the formulation of a decision adopted by the Heads of State and Government urging member States to establish and/or strengthen national commissions for the control of light weapons.

17. For five days beginning 10 December 1999, an OAU mission worked with the Centre in Lomé. The mission was organized pursuant to decision AHG/Dec. 138 (XXI), adopted by the OAU Heads of State and Government at the Summit held in Algiers on 14 July 1999, which called for increased cooperation between the Centre and the pan-African organization. The mission set out to discuss specific areas of cooperation and needs for the revitalization of the Centre. The following areas of cooperation and support were agreed upon at the close of the mission:

(a) The Centre and its activities and objectives would be promoted by OAU through systematic reciprocal participation in relevant activities and by supporting advocacy programmes for the Centre, either by the secretariat or by the Chairman of OAU;

(b) Joint activities would be set up in the field of research and training, including participation in workshops and conferences;

(c) OAU would request the Director of the Centre to present an annual report on the Centre and its activities during the meeting of the OAU Council of Ministers or the Conference of Heads of State and Government. This suggestion was supported by the Togolese authorities, who believe that this would be an effective way of maintaining the Centre and its work in the political consciousness of African leaders. Togo plans to support an OAU decision or a resolution to this effect at the next OAU Summit, scheduled to be held in Lomé in July 2000.

18. During the reporting period, the Centre held working sessions with the Technical Committee set up by the Government of Togo to ensure the collection of weapons held illegally by the civilian population. Togo renewed its request for support from the Centre, notably, for elaborating a project document for the arms collection programme. In response to that request, the Centre has conducted a survey of the scope and magnitude of the problem in Togo, as well as the best methods for arms collection. On the basis of a questionnaire elaborated in this context, interviews and discussions have been held with government authorities, civil society, traditional and religious groups.

19. The Director of the Centre visited South Africa from 2 to 5 March 2000 to discuss the revitalization process of the Centre and to seek South Africa's support for it. While there, he participated in and chaired one of the sessions of the Conference on Demilitarization and Peace-building in Southern Africa organized by the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) (www.bicc.de) and the Centre for Conflict Resolution (CCR) (ccrweb.ccr.uct.ac.za) in South Africa. The conference reviewed demilitarization and peace-building, highlighting the experiences of Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia.

20. From 6 to 10 March 2000, the Director of the Centre participated in the seventy-first Ordinary Session of the OAU Council of Ministers in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Council reviewed preparations in harmonizing Africa's position for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, scheduled for 2001. To this effect, the Centre was invited by OAU to become more actively and directly involved in the planning of the OAU Ministerial Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons, due to take place in Bamako, Mali, from 30 October to 3 November 2000. The Centre was also entrusted with the responsibility of organizing a conference of African non-governmental organizations on small arms and light weapons. At separate meetings with the OAU Secretary-General, Mr. Salim Ahmed Salim, the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Mr. Saïd Djinnit, and the Director of the OAU Conflict Management Centre, Mr. Sam Ibok, the Director of the Centre sought and obtained OAU support for two of the Centre's activities: the child soldier exhibit and the Forum of African First Ladies to Eradicate Child Soldiering in Africa, both scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the July 2000 OAU Summit in Lomé, Togo.

21. From 12 to 15 March 2000, in Nairobi, Kenya, the Director of the Centre represented the Secretary-General in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Conference on the Proliferation of Small Arms. He also made a presentation on the magnitude and scope of the proliferation of small arms which, inspired by the West African moratorium and PCASED, invited countries in the region to adopt a common approach based on the

principle of "security first". The Conference adopted the Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (A/54/860-S/2000/385, annex) and, while designating the Government of Kenya to coordinate the follow-up activities in consultation with the participating States in the region, requested the United Nations to provide assistance in the implementation of the Declaration. A first request made by Kenya in this regard concerns the carrying out of a study on the magnitude and scope of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in these regions. The ministerial segment of the Conference, which was opened on 14 March 2000 by President Daniel Arap Moi, highlighted the continued climate of conflict and distrust among States and stressed the need to establish credible data on the proliferation of small arms. In addition to participating in the Conference, the Director of the Centre took the opportunity to discuss with President Arap Moi and other personalities present at the Conference, security questions in Africa and the revitalization process of the Centre as initiated by the Secretary-General.

22. A mission from the Centre was dispatched to Niamey, Niger, from 8 to 11 March 2000, within the context of PCASED activities. The mission was organized, inter alia, to provide support for a conference to sensitize civil society on weapons proliferation in that country. The mission also held working sessions with the Niger National Commission for the campaign against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, as well as with the office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in that country.

23. As a key partner to OAU and pursuant to the OAU General Assembly decision AHG/Dec. 137 (LXX) on Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Centre helped stage a meeting of African experts on small arms in Addis Ababa from 16 to 21 May 2000. The objective of the meeting was to prepare the Ministerial Conference on Small Arms, scheduled to be held in October/November 2000. This would help formulate a common African position for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, scheduled for 2001. The expert meeting was followed on 22 and 23 June 2000 by a consultation with the objective of seeking the support of the relevant United Nations agencies and other actors concerned in developing a common African approach.

24. From 24 to 29 May 2000, a three-member delegation led by the Director of the Centre undertook a substantive working session in Abuja, Nigeria, for the twenty-fifth anniversary Summit of ECOWAS. The objectives of the mission also included: (a) to present a report on the progress achieved so far in the execution of PCASED and in the implementation of the Moratorium on the Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa; and (b) to provide technical support and assistance to the Government of Nigeria to establish a National Commission for the campaign against the proliferation of small arms.

25. The Secretary-General of OAU visited the Centre on 15 May 2000. During his visit, he reaffirmed OAU support for the work of the Centre and expressed support for the growing collaboration between the Centre and the pan-African organization. The Secretary-General of OAU also pledged support for the Centre in the organization of a child soldier exhibit entitled "Taking aim at small arms" on the sidelines of the July 2000 OAU Summit in Lomé. The inauguration of the child soldier exhibit has been formally integrated by OAU as part of the official opening ceremony of the Summit, which is to be attended by all Heads of State and Government as well as African First Ladies. A joint press conference was given by the Secretary-General of OAU and the Director of the Centre on peace, security, stability and disarmament issues in Africa.

26. The Centre has also continued to distribute information materials on disarmament and related issues published by the Secretariat and other United Nations organizations. To this end, it has launched a new publication entitled *The Regional Centre Update*, which highlights specific peace and security topical events on the continent. Pending the availability of resources to enlarge its readership, this publication is disseminated primarily to the diplomatic community, international organizations and institutions based in Lomé.

27. Visitors to the Centre's headquarters were briefed on issues relating to peace and disarmament and received relevant information materials. Delegations composed of political, diplomatic, academic and other leading personalities visited the Centre during the

reporting period. These included delegations from the European Union, Canada and Sweden as well as the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa and, as mentioned above, the Secretary-General of OAU.

28. The Centre's documentation/reference library continued to receive publications from within and outside the African region. It is visited by students, researchers and members of the diplomatic corps in Lomé. In order to increase the number of its library documents, the Centre maintained an exchange of documents with some research and academic institutions.

29. The Centre has embarked on a project to determine the routes and caches of light weapons in the region. This is intended to identify illicit traffickers of light weapons in the region, establish why illicit trafficking is facilitated by poor policing of borders and advance the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa.

30. The Centre provided support to the West African Conference on Child Soldiers held in Accra, Ghana, on 27 and 28 April 2000 with financial support from the Government of Canada. It drafted one of the concept papers and served as rapporteur of the ministerial segment of the meeting. The Conference led to the adoption of a West African Action Plan.

31. The Centre continues to provide substantive support for the implementation of the West African Action Plan, besides launching an Africa-wide child soldier project. Apart from the awareness campaign on the issue of child soldiers, the Centre is organizing a child soldier exhibit on the margins of the thirty-sixth OAU Summit and will hold a forum for African First Ladies on the issue of child soldiers later in 2000.

32. The three-phased child soldier project of the Centre will synthesize and assess relevant literature on security and judicial reform and child soldiers; draft a proposal for a programme to strengthen the capacity of security and judicial institutions in the protection of children in armed conflicts as well as sensitize the general public on the harm done to children recruited in armed conflicts; and promote security and strengthen peace processes in countries emerging from armed conflicts so as to facilitate reconciliation in post-war situations, including the reintegration of ex-combatants into civil society.

33. In early July, the Centre initiated a series of assessment missions to the Central African subregion to develop a "disarmament for development" programme. The initial phase of the programme will concentrate on Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic. This weapons collection programme is sponsored by Canada, and efforts are under way to secure support from UNDP, the European Union and other interested donors.

IV. Staffing, financing and administration

34. Since the appointment of the Director of the Centre by the Secretary-General in December 1998, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/46 E of 10 December 1996, persistent financial constraints have made it impossible for the Centre to operate at full scale to implement its work programme. The Centre continues to operate with a skeleton local staff at the General Service level. Thanks to financial contributions from the Government of Switzerland and the Norwegian Initiative on Small Arms Transfers (NISAT) (www.nisat.org), two consultants have been recruited to manage the implementation of the research project on routes and caches of small arms in Africa, and the project to strengthen the capacity of the Centre on the control of small arms, respectively. Furthermore, to facilitate the discharge of the Centre's responsibilities under the PCASED project, UNDP posted to the Centre, a Disarmament Programme Manager, an Information Systems Manager and an Associate Political Officer.

35. The functioning of the Centre continues to be hampered by the lack of sufficient resources to cover the operational costs. The Director's relentless fund-raising initiatives continue. Several contacts and consultations, including visits to Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, the Republic of Korea and the United States of America, have been made. Contacts were also made with the embassies of several donor countries at Lomé.

36. From August 1999 to July 2000, voluntary contributions in the amount of $227,263 were received. In 1999, the Government of France pledged FF 500,000 per year for five years starting in 2000. In 2000, the Government of Switzerland made a pledge of CHF 300,000 to be distributed over a three-year period

to support the project aimed at establishing an African clearing house for combating illicit trafficking in firearms. The Secretary-General wishes to express his gratitude to the Governments of Algeria, Canada, France, Mauritius, Norway and Switzerland as well as the Norwegian Red Cross for their generous support, and to the Government of Togo, the host country, for its overall support of the Centre. The status of the trust fund for the Centre covering the biennium 1998-1999 appears in the annex to the present report.

37. Owing to the ongoing financial situation of the Centre, the Secretary-General strongly supports and reiterates the appeals made by the General Assembly to Member States and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals to provide voluntary contributions that would enable the full and effective operation of the Centre.

Annex

Status of the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa covering the biennium 1998-1999

(United States dollars)

I.	Fund balance, 31 December 1997	143 837
II.	Income, 1 January 1998-31 December 1999	
	Voluntary contributions*	86 809
	Interest income	8 821
	Miscellaneous income	14 352
	Subtotal	**109 982**
III.	Expenditures	
	1 January 1998-31 December 1999	151 374
	Prior period adjustments	51 428
	Subtotal	**202 802**
IV.	**Fund balance, 31 December 1999**	**51 017**

Note: This information is based on the financial statement for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 December 1999. during the period from 1 January to 30 June 2000, additional contributions totalling $175,140 were received from Algeria ($5,000), Canada ($6,755), France ($21,932), Mauritius ($5,000), Switzerland ($56,475) and the Norwegian Red Cross ($79,978).

* 1998: Norway ($5,000); 1999: Italy ($10,000), Norway ($32,141), Sweden ($19,686), and the Norwegian Red Cross ($19,982).

United Nations A/55/172

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2000
English
Original: Arabic/English/French/
Russian/Spanish

Fifty-fifth session
Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

Report of the Secretary-General**

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	4
II.	Replies received from Governments	4
	Algeria	4
	Angola	4
	Antigua and Barbuda	4
	Argentina	5
	Barbados	5
	Benin	5
	Bolivia	5
	Botswana	5
	Brazil	5
	Burundi	6
	Cambodia	6

* A/55/150.
** This report contains replies of Member States and United Nations organs. In spite of a clear deadline set in the note verbale for submission of contributions, the Americas and Europe Division, Department of Political Affairs, has no control over late submissions.

00-55012 (E) 180800 300800

Chile 6
Colombia 6
Costa Rica 7
Cuba 7
Cyprus 11
Czech Republic 11
Democratic People's Republic of Korea 11
Dominican Republic 11
Ecuador 11
Egypt 12
European Union 12
Ghana 12
Guatemala 13
Guyana 13
Haiti 13
India 13
Indonesia 13
Iran (Islamic Republic of) 14
Iraq 14
Jamaica 15
Japan 15
Lao People's Democratic Republic 15
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 15
Liechtenstein 16
Mexico 16
Myanmar 17
Namibia 17
Panama 17
Paraguay 18
Peru 18
Qatar 18
Republic of Korea 18
Russian Federation 18

Senegal ... 20
South Africa ... 20
Sri Lanka ... 20
Suriname ... 20
Syrian Arab Republic ... 20
Thailand ... 20
Turkey ... 21
Ukraine ... 21
Uruguay ... 21
Venezuela ... 21
Viet Nam ... 22
III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system ... 23
Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ... 23
Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System's operational activities for development ... 24
International Labour Organization ... 25
Universal Postal Union ... 25
World Food Programme ... 26
United Nations Children's Fund ... 26
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization ... 27
United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention ... 29
United Nations Environment Programme ... 29
United Nations Population Fund ... 30

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 54/21 of 19 November 1999, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and to submit it to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

2. Pursuant to that request, by a note dated 22 March 2000, the Secretary-General invited Governments and organs and agencies of the United Nations system to provide him with any information they might wish to contribute to the preparation of his report.

3. The present report reproduces the replies from Governments and from organs and agencies of the United Nations that have been received as of 14 July 2000. Further replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

II. Replies from Governments

Algeria

[Original: French]
[10 July 2000]

1. Algeria fully supported General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", and voted in favour of it. It therefore fully endorses the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of this resolution.

2. Accordingly, the Algerian Government has not promulgated or applied any laws and/or regulations whose extraterritorial effects would undermine the sovereignty of other States.

Angola

[Original: Engli
[31 May 20

1. The Republic of Angola has voted in the Gen Assembly for an end to the economic, trade financial blockade imposed by the United States America against the Republic of Cuba, because suc blockade has been the cause of the poverty and mis suffered by the Cuban people.

2. The Republic of Angola sees, with indignati that in spite of the adoption by the General Assem and by other international organizations of numer resolutions for the lifting of the embargo, there seen be no signs of anything leading to a dialogue betw the concerned parties for an end to the blockade.

3. The Republic of Angola, in adherence to principles and goals set forth by the Charter of United Nations, shall continue to make efforts towa a strict universal compliance with its principle of n discrimination and the mutually beneficial cooperat among all countries and peoples.

4. The Republic of Angola, in the face of t situation, reaffirms once again its determination participate in the achievement of the goals of United Nations, including a diplomatic settlement the disputes between member countries under principles of international law and therefore urges parties to do everything in their power to establis political dialogue that might lead to the end of blockade, for the benefit of both the Cuban and American people.

Antigua and Barbuda

[Original: Engli
[20 June 20

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda neit supports nor condones any act that goes contrary to requirements of resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity ending the economic, commercial and financ embargo imposed by the United States of Amer against Cuba".

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]
[16 June 2000]

1. On 5 September 1997, the Government of the Argentine Republic promulgated Act No. 24,871. Under this Act, foreign legislation which is aimed, directly or indirectly, at restricting or impeding the free flow of trade and the movement of capital, goods or persons to the detriment of a given country or group of countries shall neither be applicable nor have legal effects of any kind within the national territory.

2. Furthermore, in accordance with article 1 of the aforesaid Act, foreign legislation which seeks to have extraterritorial legal effects through the imposition of an economic embargo or limits on investment in a given country in order to elicit a change in the form of government of a country or affect its right to self-determination shall also be utterly inapplicable and devoid of legal effect.

3. In addition, it should be noted that, at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, the Argentine delegation, in its explanation of vote in favour of draft resolution E/CN.4/2000/L.35, said that Argentina deeply regretted the fact that the resolution made no mention of the widespread concern about the serious consequences of the embargo and other unilateral economic measures applied against Cuba for many years.

4. The delegation also noted that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its opposition to the adoption of measures of this type, citing their adverse impact on the economic and social well-being of the entire Cuban population.

Barbados

[Original: English]
[26 June 2000]

1. The Government of Barbados has no laws which in any way restrict the freedom of trade and navigation with Cuba.

2. Barbados has consistently voted in favour of the resolution entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" since the resolution was first introduced in the General Assembly during the forty-sixth session, in 1991.

Benin

[Original: French]
[27 June 2000]

The Republic of Benin, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/10 of 26 October 1998, entitled "Elimination of coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion", does not recognize or apply extraterritorial coercive economic measures or legislative enactments unilaterally imposed by any State.

Bolivia

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Bolivia has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 54/21. Consequently, there are no provisions, measures or laws which the Government of Bolivia would have to repeal or invalidate in this regard.

Botswana

[Original: English]
[12 April 2000]

The Republic of Botswana has never promulgated, applied and enforced any laws and measures of the kind referred to in resolution 54/21. Botswana is therefore opposed to the continued adoption and application of such extraterritorial measures and, as reflected by its vote on resolution 54/21, supports the lifting of the embargo imposed against Cuba.

Brazil

[Original: English]
[23 May 2000]

1. Brazil reiterates its position that discriminatory trade practices and extraterritorial application of domestic laws run counter to the need for promoting

dialogue and ensuring the prevalence of the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In accordance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4 and 54/21, Brazil did not promulgate or apply any law, regulation or measure the extraterritorial effects of which could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, as well as the freedom of trade and navigation.

3. Brazil's legal system does not recognize the validity of the application of measures with extraterritorial effects. Companies located in Brazil are subject exclusively to Brazilian legislation.

4. Measures by any country which violate the provisions of resolution 54/21 and which attempt to compel the citizens of a third country to obey foreign legislation affect the interest of the international community as a whole and violate generally accepted principles of international law. They should be reviewed and changed, where appropriate, in order to bring them into conformity with international law.

5. Governments not complying with resolution 54/21 should urgently take further steps to eliminate discriminatory trade practices and bring to an end unilaterally declared economic, commercial and financial embargoes.

Burundi

[Original: French]
[20 June 2000]

1. With respect to resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", which the General Assembly adopted on 9 November 1999, the Government of Burundi shares the position of other nations.

2. The Government of Burundi upholds the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, which provide, inter alia, for freedom of trade and navigation. We hope that this issue will be settled definitively at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

3. With respect to resolution 54/54 I, entitled "Transparency in armaments", which the General Assembly adopted on 1 December 1999, our response is still in process and will be submitted in due course.

Cambodia

[Original: English]
[23 May 2000]

The Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia feels that this is the appropriate time to remove such merciless sanctions imposed upon Cuba, which have brought too much suffering to its innocent people and a great loss of all of its socio-economic structure. In this regard, the sanctions should be lifted without condition and should be heeled by a spirit of humanitarianism and development assistance.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[20 June 2000]

1. The Government of Chile considers that the application by Member States of laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation undermine universally accepted principles of international law.

2. Actions which affect the legitimate economic and commercial interests of third countries disregard the basic rules governing free trade among sovereign nations. Chile opposes such actions in all their aspects.

3. Chile has therefore refrained from applying or encouraging the application of laws or administrative norms of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Colombia

[Original: Spanish]
[19 June 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Colombia, maintaining its traditional position of respect for the principles of the self-determination of peoples and non-interference in the internal affairs of any State, has not promulgated or applied unilaterally any laws or measures against Cuba or any other State which could

affect the free development of that State's economy or trade.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

1. Costa Rica has not promulgated or applied any provisions intended to have extraterritorial effects or to affect Cuba's sovereignty, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under its jurisdiction or the freedom of trade and navigation with it. Costa Rica engages in extensive commercial and cultural exchanges with that nation. These include exchanges in the areas of tourism, basic supplies, medicines and artistic activities.

2. Costa Rica believes that the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and the so-called Helms-Burton Act are contrary to public international law and to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The Government of Costa Rica regrets that these measures have caused serious economic, social and political harm to the Cuban people. It deplores the fact that the embargo and the so-called extraterritorial legislation have adversely affected the Cuban people's health and nutritional status by impeding the importation of medicine, food, medical supplies and equipment. It also regrets that, for more than 40 years, these measures have hampered Cuba's economic growth, condemning it to irremediable underdevelopment.

3. The Government of Costa Rica believes that any sanctions regime must be approved by the international community through duly authorized and representative multilateral organizations. It therefore opposes the imposition of unilateral sanctions and the extraterritorial application of national laws.

4. Lastly, Costa Rica is convinced that lifting the embargo against Cuba would be the best way to promote dialogue, freedom of trade and communication and the socio-economic well-being of the Cuban people.

Cuba

[Original: Spanish]
[29 June 2000]

1. Once again, the Government of the Republic of Cuba is obligated to denounce the systematic policy of aggression which the Government of the United States of America has maintained against Cuba for nearly 40 years, one of whose basic instruments is the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against our nation.

2. In the course of these four decades, successive United States administrations have applied a policy of systematic economic aggression against Cuba. Because of its extent and persistence, its use of a vast arsenal of economic and political instruments, the extraterritorial nature of its provisions and their application to third countries and its unrealized strategic objective of wearing down the resistance of the Cuban people by forcing them, through poverty, want, sickness and hunger, to abandon the socio-economic and political system which they adopted, by a free and sovereign decision, with the triumph of the Cuban Revolution, this policy of economic aggression is not confined to a mere embargo on bilateral economic relations, but constitutes veritable economic warfare.

3. The criminal nature of the embargo is evident from its very formulation, but even more so from its lengthy implementation. The reaffirmation of the intent to maintain and strengthen it still further in the current circumstances is all the more immoral and compromising for that country insofar as the United Nations General Assembly has adopted, since 1992, eight consecutive resolutions that unequivocally express the need to end this cruel and inhuman policy, and insofar as the majority by which the international community has vigorously and repeatedly opposed this policy has grown from 59 votes in 1992 to 155 in 1999.

4. An analysis of the evolution of this policy from the first time Cuba brought the issue before the General Assembly to the present clearly shows that, despite the will of the majority of the international community, the only changes made to that policy have been aimed at intensifying, widening and deepening it. In the context of the numerous measures that make up the embargo against Cuba, the United States Government continues to prohibit enterprises situated in and registered under the laws of third countries from exporting to Cuba

manufactured products containing components or materials of United States origin or exporting to the United States products manufactured with raw materials from Cuba. It also continues to prohibit third-country banking institutions from providing dollar accounts to Cuban nationals or making transactions between nationals of third countries and Cuban nationals; it relentlessly harasses third-country companies that try to do business with Cuba; and it continues to veto the provision, by international financial institutions, of loans and financial aid to Cuba. The Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts remain basic pillars of this policy.

5. Day by day, more voices are joining the call for the abolition of this policy and of the promulgation and application of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

6. The continued application of this policy by the Government of the United States of America merely demonstrates its arrogance and lack of respect for the community of nations and an obstinate desire to defy the purposes and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. The United States Government simply ignores the international community's demands, thereby becoming, in effect, a constant violator of international law.

7. Since 1997, a movement opposing the use of unilateral economic sanctions as a foreign policy instrument has been gathering momentum within the United States. In response to this process, and with the aim of silencing it and preventing it from growing, the United States Administration has announced a number of measures concerning Cuba since March 1998, which it has portrayed as an "easing" of the embargo. These measures establish, inter alia, an ostensibly more expeditious procedure for the approval of licences for the sale of medicines and medical equipment, as well as the approval of sales of foodstuffs, inputs and agricultural products to non-governmental entities which are independent of the Cuban Government.

8. As the Government of the Republic of Cuba stated at the time, the terms and conditions laid down for the implementation of these measures have proved to be totally unworkable because they prohibit the conduct of genuine transactions on the commercial bases of competitiveness and profitability by requiring that specific licences be obtained from the United States Government before such operations can be authorized.

9. The measures adopted have been purely rhetorical and have not changed in the slightest the situation that existed before they were adopted. The very fact that the United States Congress is still discussing initiatives to ease the embargo in the food and health sectors is tacit evidence that nothing has changed in this area, whereas, on the other hand, the complex web of laws, regulations and presidential decrees forming the embargo has remained intact and continues to be applied in all areas and to have a profound impact on the lives of the Cuban people in general and on the country's sustainable development.

10. The exhibition of medical products and equipment by United States companies, held in January 2000 in Havana, is a convincing example of the foregoing, since the United States Government refused to authorize the contracts negotiated.

11. A recent international study on the impact of economic sanctions on the health and well-being of populations subject to these measures confirms that sanctions policies cause macroeconomic imbalances and have economic and social effects on such a scale that they cannot be mitigated by humanitarian aid, and that their consequences affect the populations that are victims of these policies in ways that go beyond their state of health.

12. The existence of a number of legislative initiatives to ease the embargo on medicines and food is evidence of the growing consensus, in some sectors of the United States legislature, in favour of lifting the unilateral economic sanctions, as well as the result of the increased pressure being exerted by that country's agricultural sector to find new markets for its products and, consequently, to change the policy towards Cuba.

13. The initiatives introduced recently in the United States Congress highlight the absurdity of the rest of the regulations under the embargo. It is impossible to conceive rationally of the development of trade between Cuba and the United States unless the two countries have a normal system of business relations that allows for negotiations, normal financial flows, air and maritime transport and the benefits of the usual forms of government support for foreign trade and the necessary access to credit.

14. In contrast to the so-called flexibility on which the United States Administration prides itself, it may be noted that there have been recent and repeated cases in which United States laboratories in third countries have expressly refused to sell urgently needed medicines to save the lives of Cuban children. This demonstrates the hypocrisy of that country's policy on the sale of medicines and on human rights.

15. However, the impact of the economic and commercial sanctions is not confined exclusively to difficulties with the supply of medicine. Health and health-care services depend on the proper functioning of infrastructure for the supply of water and sanitation, the availability of electricity and medical equipment such as ambulances, X-ray facilities and refrigeration systems. Even if the so-called humanitarian exceptions for medicine were real — which, in practice, they are not — they would be insufficient to maintain health and health-care services.

16. Despite the forces which, for various reasons, are demanding that the embargo be lifted, hostility and the desire to continue the siege still prevail in the most conservative and extremist circles of the United States Congress. In this connection, it is impressive to note the growing number of anti-Cuba bills introduced in the Congress, which exemplify the prevailing intentions of the United States legislature (a summary of the most notorious bills is annexed hereto).

17. In the same vein, with respect to the unusual case of the Cuban boy Elián González, who was kidnapped in the United States, United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said recently that, although the two Governments had some views in common concerning the case, the United States policy towards Cuba would remain unchanged.

18. Far from what public opinion is being led to believe, what is occurring in practice is the continual strengthening of the legal provisions and actions included in the embargo policy. This is the case of section 211 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act for 1999, which is aimed at extending the premises of this policy to the area of industrial property, and sections 2225 and 2802 of the same Act, which are aimed at strengthening the control of the United States Congress over the application of Title IV of the Helms-Burton Act.

19. In the World Trade Organization (WTO), Cuba has repeatedly denounced the incompatibility of this regulation with the obligations set forth in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, and reserves the right to assess possible future actions in this context.

20. A number of countries have supported Cuba's statements in the TRIPS Council. The European Union, for its part, has held two rounds of negotiations with the United States, which have been unsuccessful thus far owing to the latter's intransigence, and recently the European Commission held consultations with all its member States to consider the establishment of a panel within WTO to rule on whether these United States laws are violations of, and incompatible with, the rules and agreements in force in the multilateral trading system.

21. In addition, the aforesaid sections 2225 and 2802 strengthen the application of Title IV of the notorious Helms-Burton Act, bearing out the threats made in 1999 against European companies that could become victims of the Helms-Burton Act because of their investments in Cuba's tourism sector.

22. In its official policy of exerting pressure on various countries, the United States Government, pursuant to the provisions of the Helms-Burton Act, continues to contend that citizens of Cuban origin who have subsequently become naturalized United States citizens can bring proceedings for properties that were expropriated from them in Cuba. This is an absurdity in the light of international law.

23. Obviously, these threats are intended to have an intimidating effect on foreign investors, to create a climate of uncertainty for investment activities and to promote delays in the operations of businesses which have already been established or in obtaining new projects.

24. Conservative analyses of the embargoes impact on the population and the country as a whole show that the United States embargo has caused losses to Cuba on the order of US$ 70 billion.

25. It is estimated that, in 1999 alone, because of the effects of the embargo, Cuba had to spend an additional $98 million for the purchase of food, such as wheat, vegetable oil, beans, poultry, powdered milk and so forth.

26. If Cuba had been able to use this amount to buy additional food, it would have been able to buy, in the

past year, an additional 100,000 metric tons of wheat, 20,000 metric tons of bread flour, 80,000 metric tons of rice, 50,000 metric tons of black beans, 30,000 metric tons of chicken and 7,000 metric tons of powdered milk, all for use in feeding its population.

27. Moreover, in 1999 the cost of the financing that covers about 60 per cent of total food imports during the year required outlays of over $45 million. If Cuba had had access to the international market under normal conditions for obtaining credit, these outlays would not have exceeded $22 million.

28. A recent study on the fundamental losses caused by the embargo in Cuba's foreign trade sector estimates that, in the area of maritime transport alone, the cumulative loss resulting from differential freight costs exceeds $6.7 billion, of which over $4.4 billion corresponds to the transport of dry cargo and $2.27 billion corresponds to the transport of liquid cargo.

29. Such losses are not confined to what has been described above, but extend to other products such as chemicals, machinery and equipment for agriculture and industry, as well as the provision of services in general.

30. The continued ban on the use of the United States dollar in Cuba's international transactions, which includes a ban on the opening of dollar accounts in third-country banks, places a heavy burden on the country's economy owing to exchange-rate fluctuations. In 1999, the United States dollar tended to appreciate in relation to most of the principal international currencies. This had an adverse effect on the Cuban economy, as it made imports more expensive, obligating the country to disburse more financial resources. The negative effects on Cuba of variations in the exchange rates of the currencies of the main countries with which it carries on its external trade were on the order of $127.3 million.

31. In recent years, the economic damage caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba has amounted to some 15 per cent of Cuba's annual gross domestic product (GDP). This gives an idea of the amount of resources of which the Cuban nation is being deprived by the application of this policy.

32. The determination to destroy, at any price, the political and economic system and the values of the Cuban nation has led the United States Government to implement measures that jeopardize human life itself, as well as compliance with international standards. Economic sanctions are an integral part of United States foreign policy, and are not applied only to Cuba.

33. International studies on the impact of the United States sanctions policy indicate that, between 1993 and 1996, the United States Government initiated 35 new sanctions regimes. In 1997, that Government had sanctions against more than 50 countries, representing 68 per cent of the world's population; in 1998, the number of countries affected by unilateral United States sanctions rose to 75.

34. After nearly 40 years of suffering and deprivation as a result of this policy, the people of Cuba decided to take a supremely important and unprecedented step in their ongoing denunciation of the United States Government for its embargo and its policy of systematic aggression by bringing before the Cuban courts two lawsuits against that Government, one for "human damages" and one for "economic damages".

35. As a result of these lawsuits, which were duly notified in a timely fashion to the competent United States authorities, and following the legal proceedings initiated to hear both lawsuits, the United States Government was declared to have civil responsibility for its illicit acts against Cuba and was sentenced to provide reparation and compensation to the Cuban people in the amount of $121 billion for economic damages and $181.1 billion for human damages.

36. Both the case files showing the grounds for the two lawsuits and the judgements handed down by the court for the reparation of damages and losses resulting from the embargo and the United States' aggression against Cuba contain full and documented information on this issue and demonstrate the guilt of the authors and perpetrators of this criminal policy.

37. In addition to the foregoing comments on the embargo policy against Cuba, from late 1999 to the present, the international media, including the Internet, have revealed to the international community the case of the public kidnapping of a Cuban boy in the United States, which trampled underfoot the universally recognized principle of parental authority and turned the innocence of a six-year-old child into a symbol of that country's hostile and aggressive policy against Cuba.

38. Both the kidnapping and its aftermath are the result of the notorious "Cuban Adjustment Act", which promotes the illegal and indiscriminate emigration of Cubans to the United States, at the risk of their very lives and in contravention of the migration agreements signed between the two countries.

39. No other group of migrants has the immigration "facilities" which the United States Government grants to Cubans who decide to abandon their country by illegal means. Countless individuals, prompted by this policy, have died while trying to reach United States soil. Some studies estimate that one out of every 10 people who leave Cuba by sea will lose his or her life in the attempt.

40. Cuba will not silence these truths because it believes in the value of the principles it defends and knows that the social agenda upheld by its people is supported by millions of individuals beyond the borders of its small territory. Cuba believes in international solidarity and responsibility, and accordingly trusts that the rules and principles of international law governing the relations between States will prevail.

41. The Republic of Cuba has thus once again put forward its arguments, and hopes once again to have the support of the international community in bringing to an end this unjust and criminal policy, which may be described as an act of genocide.

Cyprus

[Original: English]
[19 April 2000]

Cyprus does not favour any attempt to enforce laws in its territory that are promulgated by other States. It is therefore opposed to the adoption of any measures that have extraterritorial application on its territory.

Czech Republic

[Original: English]
[9 June 2000]

1. The Czech Republic applies no laws or administrative measures aimed at the restriction of its mutual economic relations.

2. The Czech Republic, in line with the provisions of resolution 54/21, does not consider political, economic or other forms of containment and isolation to be an efficient tool for substantially improving the situation in Cuba.

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[4 May 2000]

1. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has been consistently maintaining the position of opposing all forms of sanctions which infringe upon the independence of the sovereign State.

2. The sanctions by the United States against Cuba mentioned in the resolution constitute a wanton violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law on the freedom of trade and navigation.

3. The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea strongly supported the aforesaid resolution calling for an end to the sanctions against Cuba and is now exerting all efforts to develop trade and economic relations with Cuba.

Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]
[14 June 2000]

The Dominican Republic confirms its total support for the principles set forth in this resolution, especially in relation to the need to guarantee the right to freedom of trade and navigation.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2000]

1. Ecuador has not adopted, nor will it adopt in the future, any laws that run counter to the freedom of international trade or violate the principle of non-interference in the internal policies of States. These principles are set forth in the Political Constitution of Ecuador and, accordingly, are reflected in each and every legal, political and economic action taken by Ecuador both domestically and internationally.

Consequently, Ecuador does not apply any type of sanctions against Cuba and maintains normal diplomatic relations with that country. Accordingly, Ecuador has traditionally supported the communiqués issued by the European Union, the Rio Group and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries relating to the question and, on the basis of the same considerations, has taken a very clear position against the Helms-Burton Act within the Organization of American States.

2. With regard to the draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly that seek to condemn the Government of Cuba for its human rights policy, Ecuador believes that this problem should be dealt with in a universal manner and should be considered in a global context.

Egypt

[Original: English]
[3 July 2000]

The Government of Egypt has not adopted any laws or measures of the kind referred to in this resolution. Consequently, there are no provisions, measures or laws which the Government of Egypt would have to repeal or invalidate in this regard.

European Union

[Original: English]
[29 June 2000]

1. The European Union believes that the United States trade policy towards Cuba is fundamentally a bilateral issue. Notwithstanding, the European Union and its member States have been clearly expressing their opposition to the extraterritorial extension of the United States embargo, such as that contained in the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992 and the Helms-Burton Act of 1996.

2. One could underline that in November 1996, the Council of Ministers of the European Union adopted a regulation and a joint action to protect the interest of natural or legal persons resident in the European Union against the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton legislation which prohibits compliance with that legislation. Moreover, on 18 May 1998, at the European Union/United States Summit in London, a package was agreed covering waivers to titles III and IV of the Helms-Burton Act; a commitment by the United States administration to resist future extraterritorial legislation of that kind and an understanding with respect to disciplines for the strengthening of investment protection. The European Union continues to urge the United States to implement its side of the 18 May 1998 Understanding.

Ghana

[Original: English]
[1 August 2000]

1. The Government of Ghana once again reiterates its concern over the continued non-compliance with General Assembly resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10 and 53/4, in which the Assembly calls upon countries to refrain from promulgating and applying laws the extraterritorial effect of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interest of entities of persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation.

2. In view of its deep concern, the Government of Ghana, in addition to its own national efforts, has worked within non-United Nations forums to urge a lifting of the embargo. At the South Summit held at Havana in April 2000, the countries of the Group of 77 endorsed the proposal put forward by Ghana by which a joint appeal from the South was addressed to the United States to lift the sanctions. That action was based on Ghana's belief that the economic embargo imposed upon the Republic of Cuba since 1960 had lasted too long and served no other purpose than to preserve tension between two neighbouring countries.

3. Ghana upholds its view that the Helms-Burton and D'Amato legislation are a breach of international law and a violation of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

4. Furthermore, Ghana wishes to express its anxiety over the untold hardship the embargo imposes on the people of Cuba, especially women and children. The Government of Ghana hereby reiterates its continued opposition to the embargo and calls for its replacement with greater dialogue and cooperation.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

There are no legal or regulatory impediments in Guatemala to the freedom of transit or trade with the Republic of Cuba. Accordingly, it is the policy of the Government of Guatemala to oppose any coercive measures that run counter to the provisions of international law.

Guyana

[Original: English]
[15 June 2000]

The Republic of Guyana fully supports resolution 54/21, voted in its favour and is committed to honouring its mandate.

Haiti

[Original: French]
[7 July 2000]

The Republic of Haiti has refrained from promulgating and applying laws and regulations whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States.

India

[Original: English]
[30 May 2000]

1. India has not promulgated or applied any laws of the type referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21 and, as such, the necessity of repealing or invalidating any such laws or measures would not arise.

2. India has consistently opposed any unilateral measures by countries which impinge on the sovereignty of another country. This includes any attempt to extend the application of a country's laws extraterritorially to other sovereign nations.

3. India recalls the Final Document adopted by the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in April 2000 on this subject and urges the international community to adopt all necessary measures to protect the sovereign rights of all countries.

Indonesia

[Original: English]
[1 July 2000]

1. It is pertinent to mention that Indonesia has always been a country committed to the principles of justice, equality and peace, the importance of which is clearly stipulated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The Charter of the United Nations and other generally recognized instruments of international law also contain provisions on compliance with these principles, as well as with the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. It is therefore fitting that Indonesia has continuously endeavoured to renounce the use of coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure in relations among States Members of the United Nations.

2. In this regard, Indonesia regrets to note that a unilateral economic embargo continues to be imposed on Cuba for more than 40 years. This is even further compounded by the application of a national act which has extraterritorial ramifications. Meanwhile, experience has demonstrated that sanctions rarely serve their intent. On the contrary, they only inflict immense socio-economic consequences upon the civilian population of the targeted State.

3. With the dawning of the third millennium, accompanied by the profound changes that have taken place in the political perspective during the last decade, the time has now come to consider a more realistic policy towards Cuba. Disputes among States Members of the United Nations ought to be settled pacifically with the observance of the good-neighbourliness approach. Hence, Indonesia calls upon Member States to comply with relevant United Nations resolutions and encourages the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial sanctions against Cuba.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba contravenes all laws and principles governing international relations, the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as the laws governing international trade and related conventions.

2. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that, while the international community is directing its efforts towards resolving tensions and the further promotion and expansion of commercial relations at the global level, the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has caused the Cuban people serious suffering and also created difficulties in global commercial and financial relations.

3. The Islamic Republic of Iran is of the view that since such measures serve to undermine international peace and security and create political and economic instability in other countries, the international community should take all necessary measures towards repealing them and preventing similar actions.

4. Moreover, the members of the international community, in particular the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, should redouble their efforts towards the creation and strengthening of a favourable international economic environment capable of providing equal opportunities for all countries to benefit from international financial and trading systems. Resort to unilateral coercive measures does not serve such an objective; it only serves to jeopardize the legitimate economic interests of the targeted countries.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]
[19 June 2000]

1. For more than 40 years the United States has imposed its inhumane embargo on Cuba in contravention of international law and international humanitarian law, and this embargo has created innumerable obstacles to Cuba's economic development, caused extensive damage to its external trade, harmed all sectors of the Cuban economy and thus caused tremendous suffering to the Cuban people. The more international voices have been raised calling for an end to this inhumane embargo, the more the United States has intensified it, to the point where its effects have transcended the boundaries of Cuba's national territory and directly infringed on the sovereignty of other States and their right to engage in free trade with Cuba.

2. The persistence of the United States of America in ignoring the will of the international community as set forth in successive resolutions adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba constitutes a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles and provisions of international law and international humanitarian law, including the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, for the embargo against Cuba is a violation of the right to life of a whole nation. The laws and regulations of an economic and commercial character enacted and imposed by the United States against Cuba constitute patent interference in matters that lie at the very core of the domestic authority of the Cuban Government, in addition to the other manifestations of United States intervention in the internal affairs of Cuba and its organization, encouragement and financing of acts of sabotage aimed at changing the political regime in Cuba.

3. Iraq, which expresses its rejection of such measures as are being taken by the United States of America against Cuba, has never promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 of General Assembly resolution 54/21. Cognizance should be taken of the fact that the people of Iraq is also the victim of United States aggressive tendencies, as reflected in that country's continued imposition of comprehensive sanctions on Iraq, its unilateral use of force against Iraq on a daily basis in the illegal no-flight zones and its encouragement and financing of acts of terrorism and sabotage aimed at changing the political regime in Iraq.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[7 July 2000]

1. The Government of Jamaica has not promulgated any law, legislation or measure which would impinge on the sovereignty of any State or its legitimate national interests or hinder the freedom of trade and navigation.

2. Jamaica remains strongly opposed to the extraterritorial application of national legislation, which would in effect undermine the principle of sovereign equality of States.

3. Jamaica has advocated an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba. We remain convinced that constructive engagement is the only viable option for the elimination of tension and ensuring peace and stability in the Caribbean. We are committed to strengthening our relations with Cuba, a member of the Caribbean family and our nearest neighbour.

4. Jamaica adheres firmly to the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and peaceful coexistence of States and attaches great importance to the observance of the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Japan

[Original: English]
[25 April 2000]

1. The Government of Japan has not promulgated or applied laws or measures of the kind that are referred to in paragraph 2 of resolution 54/21.

2. The Government of Japan believes that the economic policy of the United States towards Cuba should be considered primarily as a bilateral issue. However, Japan shares the concern, arising from the Helms-Burton Act of 1996 and the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, regarding the problem of extraterritorial application of jurisdiction, which is likely to run counter to international law.

3. The Government of Japan has been closely following the situation in relation to the above-mentioned legislation and the surrounding circumstances and its concern remains unchanged. Having considered the matter with the utmost care, Japan voted in favour of resolution 54/21.

Lao People's Democratic Republic

[Original: English]
[5 May 2000]

The Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic has consistently maintained its position that the embargo and sanctions imposed by the United States of America over the past 30 years against Cuba have not only hampered the economic and social development of Cuba, but have also violated the principles of sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries and freedom of international trade and navigation. As far as it is concerned, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which abides by and complies with all the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international laws, has neither promulgated nor applied any laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

[Original: Arabic]
[29 June 2000]

1. In accordance with the Jamahiriya's support of General Assembly resolution 54/21, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya strongly opposes the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba by the United States, inasmuch as the embargo is a violation of the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of which require Members of the Organization to settle their disputes and differences by peaceful means.

2. In conformity with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and out of respect for the norms of international law, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has neither promulgated nor applied any laws of the kind referred to in the relevant paragraph of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

3. For more than a decade and a half, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has been enduring measures imposed upon it by the United States of America that are similar to those maintained against Cuba. They have included the freezing of Libyan assets held in American banks,

the imposition of restrictions on the transfer of technology to Libya and the debarment of Libyan students from pursuing higher studies in this area at United States universities. The United States Government proceeded to strengthen these measures by means of the D'Amato Act (H. R. 3107), enacted on 19 June 1996, which imposes sanctions on any person who has made an investment of $40 million or more that directly and significantly contributed to the enhancement of Libya's capacity to develop its petroleum resources. The United States Government still persists in enforcing this Act despite continued international rejection of this measure. Thus, at the first South Summit, held at Havana from 10 to 14 April 2000, the leaders and Heads of Government of the States of the South called upon the international community not to recognize or apply such laws. There is also the decision of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena, Colombia, on 8 and 9 April 2000, condemning the continued unilateral application by certain major powers of coercive economic measures; the decision of the Organization of African Unity (CM/Dec.416 (LXVIII)) expressing concern over the continued imposition of unjust economic measures whose effect is felt beyond the region of the country concerned in violation of international law, thus undermining the interests of other countries; and the decision of the twenty-fifth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers firmly rejecting the imposition of any arbitrary or unilateral measures, whether political or legal, applied by one country against another and urging all States to consider the so-called D'Amato Act, which is contrary to international law and international norms, as null and void.

4. Inasmuch as the imposition of coercive measures is contrary to the purposes of the United Nations and to the principles of international law, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms the substance of paragraphs 2 and 3 of resolution 54/21 and calls upon the States concerned to desist from the application of those laws and other coercive measures imposed on Cuba or on any other State and to take the necessary steps to rescind them or to render them null and void.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]
[2 May 2000]

The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21. The Government of the Principality of Liechtenstein is furthermore of the view that the legislation whose implementation entails measures or regulations having extraterritorial effects is inconsistent with generally recognized principles of international law.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[1 June 2000]

1. Mexico has not promulgated and does not apply any legal provisions with extraterritorial effects. Mexico has always opposed the use of coercive measures as a means of exerting pressure in international relations.

2. Mexico bases its foreign policy on the principles of international law governing coexistence among nations: the peaceful settlement of disputes, the legal equality of States, non-interference in their internal affairs and the right of peoples to self-determination.

3. The people and Government of Mexico have repeatedly expressed their opposition to the unilateral imposition of political and economic sanctions which have not been decided upon by the Security Council or the General Assembly. Mexico has opposed the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba and has supported all the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the necessity of ending it.

4. When the so-called Helms-Burton Act was promulgated, the Government of Mexico stated that it contravened the provisions of international law. That view was echoed in the opinion handed down by the Inter-American Juridical Committee.

5. On 24 October 1996, the Act on Protection of Trade and Investment against Foreign Laws Which Violate International Law, which had been adopted by the Mexican Congress, entered into force in Mexico. This law seeks to eliminate the negative impact of

foreign extraterritorial measures that affect Mexico's trade with other countries. The Act:

(a) Prohibits national courts from recognizing and executing foreign judicial decisions and orders which are directed against enterprises established or situated in Mexico and based on foreign laws that have extraterritorial effects and are contrary to international law;

(b) Prohibits enterprises established or situated in Mexico from acting or neglecting to act in a manner which might impair Mexico's trade or investments on the basis of such laws;

(c) Provides for the right to take legal action before federal courts on behalf of individuals or legal entities situated or established in Mexico in order to sue for payment for damages or loss resulting from a judicial or administrative procedure carried out by foreign courts or authorities in application of such laws;

(d) Prohibits the provision of information requested by foreign courts or authorities on the basis of such laws for the purpose of using it against such enterprises, and imposes financial penalties for non-compliance.

6. Mexico has friendly and respectful relations with the Republic of Cuba. Accordingly, the Mexican Government has maintained a non-discriminatory trade policy towards that country and has opposed any attempt to undermine the mutually beneficial economic ties that unite the two peoples.

Myanmar

[Original: English]
[13 June 2000]

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar continues to maintain its consistent policy of strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and of any scrupulous respect, among others, for the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs, freedom of trade and international navigation.

2. The Union of Myanmar is of the view that the promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations the territorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests or persons under their jurisdiction as well as the freedom of trade and the freedom of navigation violate the universally adopted principles of international law.

3. In conformity with the above, the Union of Myanmar has not promulgated any laws and regulations of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The Government of the Republic of Namibia believes in the sovereignty of each nation-State and upholds the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States.

2. The Government of the Republic of Namibia has never imposed any trade or commercial sanctions against Cuba. The Government of the Republic of Namibia condemns the Helms-Burton Law, which has a wide extraterritorial nature. This law is a direct violation of State sovereignty, a serious breach of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and international law and a violation of the rules of the international trade system.

3. The imposition of the blockade on Cuba has brought immense suffering to the people of Cuba, and Namibia will continue to actively support the lifting of the United States blockade against Cuba.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]
[23 June 2000]

The Government of Panama opposes the unilateral application, with extraterritorial effects, of national laws and measures that affect the trade and international relations of other States, since they are contrary to international law and the principle of the legal equality of States. Panama also considers that the use of economic measures as a means of exerting pressure is contrary to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Paraguay

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

Pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 54/21, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay does not have and has not promulgated or applied any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble of that resolution, in compliance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, guarantee the freedom of trade and navigation.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]
[13 June 2000]

1. No law or measure whatsoever of the kind referred to in General Assembly resolution 54/21 exists or is applied in Peru.

2. The position of the Government of Peru on this matter is based on the joint measures adopted at meetings of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (Rio Group), which took place in Veracruz, Mexico, in March 1999, and on the recent declarations adopted at the Ibero-American Summit, held in Havana in November 1999, and at the Ninth Institutionalized Ministerial Meeting between the European Union and the Rio Group, held on 24 February 2000 in Vilamoura, Portugal.

3. The Government of Peru does not agree with unilateral and extraterritorial measures which seek to affect the internal political process of a specific State. Peru considers that due respect for the national constitutional order is essential in international relations.

4. Lastly, the Government of Peru wishes to reaffirm its strong and unswerving commitment to the common objectives of guaranteeing representative democracy, respect for human rights and economic freedom.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[9 May 2000]

1. The Government of Qatar remains committed to implementing General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba" fully and promptly and has not taken any measures contrary to this resolution.

2. Qatar has not promulgated or applied any laws or regulations that have extraterritorial effects and affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

3. The Government of Qatar rejects the use of economic measures as a means of achieving political goals and is bound in its relations with other States by the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the rules of international law.

4. Qatar supports the aforementioned General Assembly resolution and calls for its implementation.

Republic of Korea

[Original: English]
[5 July 2000]

The Republic of Korea applies no laws or administrative measures aimed at restricting its economic relations with Cuba.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]
[7 June 2000]

As in the past, having expressed its support for General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba", the Russian Federation shares the view of the overwhelming majority of the members of the United Nations strongly opposing the United States blockade and affirming the inadmissibility of any unilateral actions being taken by States in violation of

the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the basic norms of international law and justice.

The Russian Federation, like many countries, considers that the continuing trade and economic blockade imposed against Cuba by the United States is a relic of the "cold war", which is artificially impeding the formation of a world legal order based on the principles of international legality and justice.

Accordingly, together with other States, we have repeatedly expressed disagreement with the efforts by certain circles in the United States to tighten the embargo and illegally expand the extraterritorial implementation of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 12 March 1996. This law can rightly be described as discriminatory, since it contravenes the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, and its extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of legal entities and natural persons under their jurisdiction and freedom of trade and navigation.

The attempts that are made from time to time by the United States Congress to tighten the sanctions regime against Cuba and to exert pressure on third countries and certain international organizations in order to curtail their cooperation with Cuba, which is clearly at variance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and with the aspiration of peoples to achieve peace, sustainable development and prosperity, have caused concern on the part of the Russian Federation.

The Russian Federation fully reaffirms its commitment to the principle set forth in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 October 1970, pursuant to which no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind.

The Russian Federation, along with the overwhelming majority of the States Members of the United Nations, supports the appeal to all States to refrain from adopting or applying such unilateral coercive measures in circumvention of the United Nations Security Council. We also urge those States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their constitutional procedures. In this connection, the Russian Federation believes that it would be useful to consider, at the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly, the report on this subject being prepared by the Secretary-General in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system.

The Russian Federation regards the steps that are being taken by the United States Administration for further stepping up humanitarian contacts with Cuba, partially liberalizing deliveries of medicine and foodstuffs to the island and expanding the geographical area for charter flights between the two countries as a move in the right direction. We hope that these measures, although limited and selective in nature, along with the action taken by the United States Administration to reunite with his father the six-year-old Cuban boy, Elián González, who, by force of circumstances, came to be in United States territory, will mark the beginning of a constructive reconsideration of the United States policy towards Cuba.

We are convinced that the lifting of the United States economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, in particular, and the normalization of United States-Cuban relations in general would help to improve the situation in the region and to integrate Cuba further into international economic relations, and thereby promote its advancement along the path of reform and positive changes in its economic and social life.

For its part, the Russian Federation, firmly guided by the principles of the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, reaffirms its intention to continue to develop normal trade and economic relations with Cuba that are based on common interest and mutual advantage and are conducted in strict accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the generally recognized principles and norms of international law, without any discrimination or detriment to the legitimate rights and interests of the parties.

Senegal

[Original: French]
[6 April 2000]

Senegal does not apply or recognize unilateral measures with extraterritorial effects.

South Africa

[Original: English]
[5 July 2000]

1. The Republic of South Africa reiterates its opposition to the unilateral punitive economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

2. In this regard and consistent with General Assembly resolution 53/4 of 14 October 1998, the Government of South Africa maintains political, economic, trade, financial and cultural relations with the Republic of Cuba pursuant to action required under that resolution.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]
[15 June 2000]

Sri Lanka has not promulgated any laws and measures referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21, entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo by the United States of America against Cuba". Therefore the question of repealing such laws does not arise.

Suriname

[Original: English]
[4 April 2000]

The Government of the Republic of Suriname has not promulgated and applied laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to resolution 54/21.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]
[20 June 2000]

1. The Syrian Arab Republic voted in favour of resolution 54/21, affirming as it does the need for compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the sovereign quality of States and non-intervention in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation. Resolution 54/21 also urges States to take the necessary steps to end as soon as possible the economic, commercial and financial blockade that has been maintained against Cuba for more than three decades.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic would like to refer in this connection to the final document of the Twelfth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban, South Africa, on 3 September 1998, which called upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial actions against Cuba, which cause huge material losses and extensive economic damage to the people of Cuba, in addition to being unilateral and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and international law and to the principle of good-neighbourliness. The final document of the Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries called once again upon the United States of America to settle its differences with Cuba through negotiations on the basis of equality and mutual respect, in compliance with resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4 and most recently 54/21 of the United Nations General Assembly.

Thailand

[Original: English]
[9 June 2000]

Thailand has not promulgated and applied laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the aforesaid resolution. Moreover, Thailand also does not agree with the application of unilateral measures by one State against another State that results in extraterritorial enforcement of those measures upon other States, which in effect violates international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Turkey

[Original: English]
[7 July 2000]

The Republic of Turkey does not have any laws or measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to General Assembly resolution 54/21 and reaffirms its adherence to the principle of freedom of trade and navigation in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Ukraine

[Original: English]
[9 May 2000]

1. Ukraine does not have any legislation or regulations whose extraterritorial effects could affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction, or the freedom of trade and international navigation.

2. Equally, the Government of Ukraine does not accept the use of economic measures as a means of achieving political aims and upholds, in its relations with other countries, the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the norms of international law and the freedom of trade and navigation.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]
[27 June 2000]

In view of the fact that Uruguay has traditionally maintained a foreign policy which encourages free trade without restrictions of any kind and that it does not recognize in its legislation the extraterritorial application of domestic laws, the Government of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay has not applied any measures or laws of the kind referred to in the preamble of General Assembly resolution 54/21.

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[30 June 2000]

1. Venezuela has consistently and repeatedly expressed its opposition to the promulgation and application of laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of international trade and navigation.

2. Venezuela considers that unilateral measures with coercive and extraterritorial effects, such as the embargo against Cuba, have a negative impact on the legal regime governing economic and commercial exchanges among nations and on the efforts made to achieve continental and subregional economic integration.

3. In accordance with these views, Venezuela has voted in favour of the resolutions that have been adopted by the General Assembly since 1992 condemning the embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

4. When the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/21 in November 1999, Venezuela reiterated its opposition to the application of unilateral coercive measures such as the Helms-Burton Act owing to its belief that such actions violated the sovereignty of States, affected the legitimate interests of entities and citizens under the jurisdiction of third parties and undermined the rules of free trade stipulated by the World Trade Organization. It also reiterated the content of the Asunción Declaration, adopted at the Eleventh Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, as well as other similar statements issued by the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (see document A/54/PV.50, p. 14).

5. Venezuela's immutable position on this matter has been maintained in various international forums at which the application of unilateral coercive measures with extraterritorial effects has been considered.

6. In the final document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held on 8 and 9 April 2000 in Cartagena, Colombia, the member States condemned the continued unilateral application of coercive

economic and other measures against a number of developing countries, and called on States not to recognize them. They also called on States to refrain from adopting or implementing similar coercive measures such as the Helms-Burton and D'Amato-Kennedy Acts, whose content and purpose violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

7. Similarly, the States members of the Group of 77, meeting in Havana, Cuba, for the South Summit held from 10 to 14 April 2000, underlined the necessity for developed countries to eliminate laws and regulations with adverse extraterritorial effects and other forms of unilateral economic coercive measures that were inconsistent with the principles of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the multilateral trading system.

8. The Heads of State and Government of the Group of 15, meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 13 to 20 June 2000 on the occasion of their Tenth Summit, included in their joint communiqué a recommendation that urgent and effective measures should be adopted to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

9. At the hemispheric level, Venezuela voted in favour of the 1996 resolution AG/RES.1364 (XXVI-0/96) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the text of which, expressing concern about "the enactment and application by the member States of laws and regulations, the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States", instructed the Inter-American Juridical Committee to decide upon the validity under international law of the Helms-Burton Act and to present its findings to the OAS Permanent Council. Subsequently, at the 1997 General Assembly of OAS, Venezuela joined in supporting resolution AG/RES.1447 (XXVII-0/97), in which the member States took note of the opinion of the Inter-American Juridical Committee, which had concluded unanimously that the bases and potential application of the Helms-Burton Act were "not in conformity with international law".

10. In any event, Venezuela's support for resolutions condemning the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba should not be interpreted as support for any regime in particular, since it believes that the arguments put forward are legitimate for any political situation in the countries against which such measures are applied. Venezuela is convinced that the changes necessary for promoting democracy and the fundamental freedoms which all countries desire can be brought about only through cooperation and dialogue.

11. Venezuela's position reflects the international community's nearly unanimous opposition to the promulgation and application of such unilateral and extraterritorial coercive measures, which clearly violate the basic principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Viet Nam

[Original: English]
[1 May 2000]

1. Over the past many years, the General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions requesting the United States of America to put an end to the policies and acts of economic, commercial and financial embargo and blockade imposed upon the Republic of Cuba, which seriously violate international laws and run counter to the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the common trends of the world today, namely, development cooperation on the basis of equality among sovereign States and non-discrimination among political systems.

2. The above-mentioned resolutions of the General Assembly have been continuously adopted by overwhelming majorities, and most recently resolution 54/21 was adopted on 9 November 1999 by 155 votes in favour. This demonstrates not only the urgent need for the abolition of these obsolete policies imposed upon the Cuban people, but also the common desires of States for the development of healthy international relations, cooperation for development on the basis of equality, non-discrimination among political systems and respect for the right of every nation to choose its means of development.

3. Viet Nam is of the view that all the differences between the United States and the Republic of Cuba should be solved through dialogue and negotiations on the basis of mutual respect, respect for the independence and sovereignty of States and non-

interference in the internal affairs of States. In line with this, Viet Nam welcomes every effort of the parties concerned to this effect.

4. The United Nations should produce concrete initiatives and measures so that these resolutions will be implemented as soon as possible to put an immediate end to the unilateral policies of embargo imposed upon the Republic of Cuba.

5. Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms its support for and cooperation and solidarity with the Cuban people. Together with all the peoples of the world who cherish peace, freedom and justice, Viet Nam will do its utmost to assist the Cuban people in overcoming the impacts of the above-mentioned unjust policies of embargo and blockade which violate the norms of international law.

III. Replies received from organs and agencies of the United Nations system

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

[Original: English/Spanish]
[26 June 2000]

1. As indicated in the previous report of the Secretary-General on this question, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has produced an updated entitled version of the book *La Economía Cubana: Reformas estructurales y desempeño económico en los noventa*, originally published jointly by ECLAC and the Fondo de Cultura Económica in March 1998 (Spanish only), with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

2. The updated version was published in July. In the study ECLAC has expanded the analysis of Cuba's international economic relations, paying particular attention to the efforts aimed at rebuilding its external sector. Thus, chapter IV explores recent developments in areas such as export promotion; input procurement and import substitution policies; foreign direct investment and policies aimed at promoting other types of financing; and the impact of the embargo on trade negotiations and the search for new markets.

3. Box 1 of Chapter IV, entitled "Effects of the embargo", constitutes the most straightforward input to the subject under consideration. The text of Box 1 reads as follows:

Effects of the embargo

In its *Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 1992*, the Commission had already commented on the adverse effects of the United States embargo: "Strictly speaking, the embargo has been maintained for more than three decades, although it directly influenced only 15 per cent of Cuba's total foreign trade. With the drying up of Cuba's advantageous trade relations with the socialist camp, the embargo began to have an impact on the entire Cuban economy." Although it is difficult to measure the direct and indirect costs of the policy, Cuban researchers estimate that by 1998 the cost in unrealized trade, loss of output, financial losses, travel prevented and the higher cost of transactions had amounted to about US$ 67 billion (Aguilar Trujillo, 1998).

The Torricelli Act of 1992 has made it harder for Cuba to handle its overseas trade. In the first place, it prevents subsidiaries of United States firms in third countries from trading with Cuba. The United States Treasury Department calculated that in 1991 two-way trade between Cuba and these subsidiaries amounted to US$ 718 million. Second, the Act stipulates that ships loading or unloading merchandise in Cuba shall be prohibited from docking at United States ports for six months thereafter. In 1992, the Cuban fleet was able to transport barely 20 per cent of the tonnage of goods traded in both directions. The provision thus raises international freight costs and delays delivery of imported and exported goods.

In 1996 the United States Congress passed the Helms-Burton Act, further tightening the embargo, chiefly by slowing the flow of foreign investment. By putting at risk the property and bank accounts of third parties that do business with Cuba or have access to property of United States citizens that was expropriated by the Cuban Government, and by denying a United States entry visa to the officers and principal shareholders of firms that invest in property that may have been expropriated, the Act has

intensified the negative repercussions on the Cuban economy. Some firms have withdrawn from the island and others have cancelled projects, although, on balance, large amounts of foreign investment have continued to flow in.

The report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-second session of the General Assembly notes that "the continuation and strengthening of the ... embargo ..., including its extraterritorial effects, is affecting in different ways the difficult economic recovery process initiated in 1994" (see document A/52/342, p.33), with three principal effects: (a) the embargo raises the risks and costs for foreign investment capital; (b) it increases the difficulties for Cuba of negotiating debt settlements and credit with public and commercial creditors; and (c) it maintains conditions that raise the costs of sourcing, financing and transporting imports.

Office of the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system's operational activities for development

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba has continued to severely affect the social and economic situation of the country throughout 1999 and the first half of 2000. The Government of Cuba has highlighted efforts by institutions of the United States Government to prevent foreign nationals and commercial organizations from doing business with Cuba, thus extending the scope of the embargo beyond United States jurisdiction.

2. The adverse effects of the embargo on the Cuban economy and population have been compounded by the Cuban Adjustment Act, United States legislation that grants Cuban nationals residence permits in the United States as long as they are able to set foot in United States territory, even through clandestine means. This Act has fuelled the illegal contraband of persons out of Cuba, as well as badly prepared attempts, which occasionally have a tragic sequel of deaths at sea, as recent highly publicized cases have dramatically underscored.

3. The United States embargo and related legislation constitute in different ways a major obstacle for the recovery of the Cuban economy and consequently impede the normal functioning of the social services, affecting in a negative manner the living conditions of the Cuban population. These provisions of the embargo constitute a major handicap for the further development of the economy in general and for the needed rehabilitation of its infrastructure in particular. The exclusion of Cuba from the major concessional lending sources not only prevents social-related investments and degrades the environment for private investment in general, but also limits the possibilities of Cuba having access to global settlement mechanisms for a possible rescheduling and/or restructuring of its external debt. Moreover, the United States embargo affects the possibilities to receive loans and commercial credits on regular terms and hampers the development of capital investment flows because of the higher costs and risks.

4. Apart from the above, the United States embargo also affects the Cuban economy by bringing about a sharp increase in the direct and/or indirect costs of external trade, maritime transport, the provision of services and effective access to materials and/or equipment of critical importance for the country. Furthermore, the United States embargo sharply increases the vulnerability of Cuba to the negative effects of globalization and hampers its access to its positive influences.

5. On 5 May 2000, the Supreme People's Court of Cuba issued a judgement on a claim against the Government of the United States of America submitted by eight Cuban NGOs. The claim lists by sectors the economic damages to the country resulting from the United States embargo in an amount of US$ 67 billion, plus an additional $54 billion for other economic damages stemming from alleged covert actions against the country.

6. To comply with their respective mandates while addressing the overall situation of Cuba, the programmes, funds and specialized agencies represented in the country are currently working along the following fundamental lines:

(a) Supporting the consolidation and further improvement of social services, while alleviating bottlenecks in meeting basic needs;

(b) Supporting the economic recovery process through the promotion of a favourable environment and the development of new managerial systems;

(c) Fostering support to critical areas of the Cuban economy, such as food security, recovery of industrial production, alternative energy production and management and environmental protection;

(d) Promoting cooperation between Cuba and the rest of the world in the areas covered by the respective mandates of each of the organizations of the United Nations system.

7. Achievements in these areas include the design and approval of new programmes addressing those most critical issues. Progress in the first area is particularly noticeable in the health and sanitation sector (UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO/PAHO, UNOPS, UNDP), in the educational and scientific sector (UNICEF, UNDP) and in the efforts for human development at the local level (UNDP, UNOPS). In the second area, a large-scale initiative has been under way since 1998 to strengthen the economic management institutions of the Government, thus supporting the recovery of the Cuban economy (UNDP). In the third area, concrete projects have been initiated and/or continued for supporting advancement in industrial production (UNIDO), food security and agricultural and cattle production (WFP, FAO) and in sustainable energy production and management and environmental protection (UNDP). In the fourth area, a large range of activities within the respective mandates of the United Nations organizations were undertaken to promote contacts and cooperation with the outside world.

8. In the first half of 2000, UNDP has sharply increased its efforts in support of various fields of economic and social development in Cuba. Especially critical is UNDP's support for local decentralized human development initiatives in line with the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and initiatives for the development of sustainable clean energy production, using domestically produced biomass, which would reduce the country's dependence on oil imports. Likewise, several ongoing initiatives provide support for environmental protection, including forest rehabilitation, cleaning of contaminated bays, coastal and biodiversity protection, which are critical for the promotion of an enabling environment towards the development of the tourist industry, the country's main foreign exchange earner, and the elimination of substances that deplete the ozone layer. Also ongoing are initiatives in support of economic recovery, access to information technology and the continued development of the biotechnological pharmaceutical sector.

9. Although strategically oriented and catalytic, the support provided by the organizations of the United Nations system cannot compensate, by nature or volume, for Cuba's exclusion from concessional lending and the shortage of capital flows that are required to redress the Cuban economy and further develop the country. Hence the United States embargo and related restrictions against Cuba remain a major obstacle to the development of the country.

International Labour Organization

[Original: English]
[28 April 2000]

1. Cuba is treated in the same way as any other International Labour Organization (ILO) member State. Cuba participates actively in the International Labour Conference and other pertinent ILO activities.

2. In correspondence dating from 1995 between the ILO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Minister of Labour and Social Security of Cuba, the ILO has stated its view that the United Nations is the appropriate forum to address the question of the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba.

Universal Postal Union

[Original: English]
[17 May 2000]

Cuba enjoys full membership of the Universal Postal Union and consequently benefits from the same rights and obligations as the other 188 member countries, including technical assistance activities, in particular in the areas of postal reform, quality of service and human resources management.

World Food Programme

[Original: English]
[19 May 2000]

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) continues to support Cuba both in food aid for development activities and in relief assistance for victims of natural disasters, such as drought and hurricane damage. WFP began operations in Cuba in 1963.

2. During 36 years of continuing work, WFP has implemented 4 developments projects and 10 emergency operations, at a cumulative value of over US$ 208 million. In line with the Government's priorities, WFP supports the agricultural policy to improve food security and the quality of life of the main vulnerable groups. This, in turn, contributes to the self-sufficiency of the beneficiaries through the promotion of food production. WFP has also played an important role in assisting the populations most affected by natural disasters, through the provision of emergency humanitarian food aid.

3. Significant advances have taken place with WFP projects, in particular "Dairy Development in Las Tunas Province" (project 4391) and "Agricultural Production for Food Security in Granma Province" (project 5686).

4. Project 4391 achieved an annual milk production of 29.2 million litres and significantly contributed to milk production in Las Tunas, thereby contributing to the National Food Plan. It raised the incomes of dairy farmers and provided job opportunities through the introduction of milk production activities and promoted women's participation. During the life of the project, with the contribution of WFP, credits were granted to 8,725 persons, indirectly benefiting over 30,000. The project ended in 1999.

5. Project 5686 began in 1997 and has since assisted 16,387 beneficiaries with credit funds. As a result, as of September 1999, over 81 million litres of milk, 15.5 metric tonnes of meat and more than 170 metric tonnes of root vegetables, beans and vegetables had been produced. Also, 2,015 permanent new jobs and 11,662 temporary jobs were established.

6. As a result of El Niño, in 1998, a severe drought had a direct negative impact on Cuba's population, particularly in the eastern provinces. WFP, under Emergency Operation 6037, entitled "Relief Food Assistance to Drought Victims in Five Eastern Provinces", mobilized $2.5 million for purchases of approximately 4,970 metric tonnes of food products, to benefit over 257,000 drought-affected persons, of whom 14,909 were pregnant women and 217,404 were children in boarding or half-boarding schools. Special priority was given to the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, i.e., pregnant and nursing women, children under five, primary and secondary school students, disabled persons and the elderly.

7. WFP has also supported donors' bilateral efforts to enhance food security in Cuba. WFP is currently monitoring the distribution of 26,300 metric tonnes of rice donated by Japan.

8. More recently, the Government of Cuba and WFP have been considering a new development project to begin after the completion of project 5686, which would focus on providing nutritional support to highly vulnerable groups, and contribute to the reactivation of food industries in targeted provinces. This approach will build on the successful experience obtained in the implementation of the drought Emergency Operation.

9. WFP is in contact with United States business firms in an effort to facilitate agricultural donations from the United States to Cuba. Recently, 10 major agribusiness firms and industry association representatives from the United States participated in an agricultural and humanitarian mission to Cuba. These firms are exploring opportunities of working with WFP as they seek to develop agriculture as an effective means to provide for the well-being of the Cuban people.

United Nations Children's Fund

[Original: English]
[23 June 2000]

1. The situation of children in Cuba continues to be adversely affected by a number of internal as well as external factors, including the embargo. As with the majority of such situations, it is very difficult to separate the combined negative effects of those factors.

2. In spite of the difficulties, Cuba enjoys a high level of health and education indicators among countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. The infant mortality rate in 1998 was estimated at 8 per 1,000 live births, which is comparable to the rate in

developed countries. Nevertheless, the country faces increasing difficulties in preserving the level of expenditures in the social sector, which have historically been very high.

3. According to the Government, in 1997, the embargo was responsible for an increase in transportation costs of $21 million, and an extra expenditure of $48 million owing to lack of free access to cheaper foodstuffs. In 1998 and 1999, the effects of the persistent drought in the eastern provinces and of hurricane George on the agricultural sector added to the country's difficulties.

4. The Cuban public health care system has been stressed by a number of factors, the greatest being costs, which have increased by $1.2 billion over the past eight years. The Government reports that the embargo has made it difficult to maintain the infrastructure, including medical equipment, and to acquire vaccines, medicines and chemicals not produced in the country. This has had an impact on both preventive and curative aspects of health care.

5. The well-being and health of Cuban women of all ages has been adversely affected by restrictions on the availability of household goods, foodstuffs, medical products and fuel. Routine screening programmes for detection of breast cancer have been discontinued and preventive care such as cytological tests, Papanicolaou and mammographies have been significantly reduced. Owing to the shortage of material recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), mammograms are currently only given to women in high-risk groups for breast cancer.

6. At present, only two or three surgical interventions are performed daily, which represents a dramatic drop compared to 15 surgical interventions performed during the 1980s. The daily lives and well-being of women are also affected by lack of access to sanitary pads. The use of alternative materials is thus increasing the risk of infections.

7. Iron-containing folic acid and vitamin C supplements had to be distributed nationwide to combat anaemia which affected more than one third of the population of pregnant women. The diet of Cuban women does not contain adequate levels of some essential nutrients. The low intake of calcium-rich food leads to osteoporosis and frequent bone fractures.

8. Access to clean water remains a serious health concern for over 4 million people — 2 million of them children — living in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants. About 72 per cent of drinking water must be treated with chlorine gas, but lack of chemical supplies has led to the closing of 46 per cent of the water treatment facilities. In 1998, only 69 per cent of the sodium hipoclorite and 55.5 per cent of the aluminum sulphate needed to treat drinking water were available nationwide.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

[Original: English/French/Spanish]
[2 June 2000]

1. Actions of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has contributed to diminishing the negative impact and isolation that the embargo has imposed on Cuba. The most relevant actions have been those in support of activities in the fields of competence of the organization, notably education and culture. All the activities and projects carried out by the UNESCO Havana Office strengthened the flow of cooperation and experts from outside the country and priority was given to projects dealing with culture and development, in particular, tourism.

The activities were as follows:

(i) Financial support to the course "Los jóvenes y la política de juventud en Cuba", for 20 participants from different youth and student organizations of Cuba;

(ii) Renewal of the Pioneer Camp "Ernesto Guevara". This project is aimed at improving the conditions of the camp, where different national and international events are held with the participation of Cuban and foreign children. This action will contribute to creating new opportunities for cultural exchange;

(iii) Financial support was given to the organization of the event "La joven narrativa cubana en vísperas del nuevo milenio", with the sponsorship of the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba and the participation of 42 young Cuban writers;

(iv) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the conservation of heritage at the International Seminar on Cultural Heritage and Development, held at Campeche, Mexico;

(v) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the first International Congress on Gastronomic Heritage and Cultural Tourism, held at Puebla, Mexico;

(vi) Election of the UNESCO Regional Office for Culture for Latin America and the Caribbean as a member of the organizing committee for the first International Congress on Culture and Development, which took place in Havana from 7 to 11 June 1999 and was organized by the Cuban Ministry of Culture. Financial assistance was provided and a background paper was prepared;

(vii) Formulation by a team of experts from Spain, Mexico and Cuba of a plan of action for the conservation and administration of Morro-Cabana Park in Havana, a symbol of the Cuban capital and a site declared part of the heritage of mankind;

(viii) Organization by the UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Preservation Sciences of an international workshop on the integrated preservation and development of historic centres. The workshop took place at the National Centre for Preservation, Restoration and Museum Science of Cuba and was attended by a large group of young specialists from the region and Latin American and European experts;

(ix) In collaboration with the Office of the City Historian of Trinidad and Cienfuegos, and ORCALC, organization of a workshop for the training of artisans, to be held in Trinidad and Cienfuegos;

(x) Contribution to the publication of *Diccionario de la lengua conga residual en Cuba*;

(xi) Financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Culture for the development of art schools in Cuba;

(xii) Financial and technical assistance for crafts promotion and publication of a catalogue on Cuban crafts;

(xiii) Financial contribution towards the restoration of the Castillo San Pedro de la Roca in Santiago de Cuba;

(xiv) Financial support for the construction of the monument "Loma del Cimarrón", as part of the Slave Route in the Caribbean;

(xv) Financial contribution to the organization of the course "Gestiones de Sitio del Patrimonio Mundial", to be held in Santiago de Cuba;

(xvi) Financial contribution to the organization of a meeting of the network of cities with historical centres under restoration, held at Havana;

(xvii) Feasibility study on the development of the Jagua fortress in Cienfuegos;

(xviii) Execution of the special project on youth and the world heritage in collaboration with the Office of the City Historian of Old Havana;

(xix) Financial support to the Ministry of Education for the purchase of school materials;

(xx) Holding of a meeting of the Laboratorio de Control de la Calidad de la Educación with the participation of experts from all regions;

(xxi) Participation in the preparatory meeting of Ministers of Education of Iberoamerica, prior to the Summit of Heads of State and Government in Havana;

(xxii) Organization of a UNESCO subregional workshop entitled "A cultural approach to the prevention and care of HIV/AIDS" (Havana, 26-30 April 1999), with the participation of representatives of national bodies concerned with control and struggle against AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases, non-governmental entities from seven countries of the subregion and four agencies of the United Nations system;

(xxiii) Monitoring of the implementation by the Cuban counterpart of the Cuban Case Study for the Cultural Approach to the Prevention and Care of HIV/AIDS, held in the framework of the UNESCO/UNAIDS project;

(xxiv) Intellectual and technical assistance to the Instituto de Cibernética, Matemática y Física (ICIMAF), for the organization of the International Conference on Science and

Technology for Development) (Havana, 22-26 March 1999) in which UNESCO participated;

(xxv) Intellectual and technical assistance to ICIMAF for the Conference of the Southern Zone of Havana;

(xxvi) Contribution to sports fields in isolated areas of Cuba within the framework of the "Sports for All" project;

(xxvii) Assistance to the Centro de Gestión, Información y Educación Ambiental for the elaboration of a sub-project to promote the implementation of the National Programme of Environmental Education for Sustainable Development of the Rural Communities of the Western Zapata Swamp;

(xxviii) Financial assistance for the organization of the International Congress "Biotechnology 99" held at Havana;

(xxix) Financial support for the participation of Cuban specialists in the World Science Conference and of a young specialist at the International Forum of Young Scientists, both in Budapest;

(xxx) Financial support for the participation of a Cuban member of the New York meeting of the UNESCO/UNICEF Joint Committee for Education;

(xxxi) Financial support for the project "Management of Natural Resources of the Areas of the Almendares and Quibú rivers", in Havana;

(xxxii) Financial support for the publication of an anthology of the work of the Cuban poet Serafina Núñez.

2. Through its office in Cuba, UNESCO helped to reduce the impact of the embargo by contributing to various development programmes in its fields of competence. Different sectors of Cuban society have acknowledged the efforts of UNESCO, even though they have not been enough to offset the negative impact of the embargo in the areas of education, science and culture.

United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

[Original: English]
[7 April 2000]

1. Despite scarce material resources, Cuba contributes significantly to regional and international drug control through sea and air interdiction. There is strong political will to keep the island free of drugs. The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (UNDCP) recently signed a two-year project to strengthen drug interdiction capabilities and training, and develop a drug abuse prevention programme, making full use of Cuba's extensive health and education infrastructure.

2. To raise international awareness of Cuba's drug control efforts and achievements, UNDCP is planning a Caribbean regional meeting on results in drug control, to be held at Havana in September 2000.

United Nations Environment Programme

[Original: English]
[16 May 2000]

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has not been involved with the Government of the United States of America or the Government of Cuba concerning issues relating to the embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. The Twelfth meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of the Latin America and the Caribbean region (for which UNEP is the secretariat), held in Barbados from 2 to 7 March 2000, in its decision 19, expressed its support for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/21. The relevant parts of the decision read as follows:

> "*Taking into account* United Nations General Assembly resolution 54/21 on the "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba",
>
> "*Noting with concern* that the embargo is far from reducing the enforcement of its economic, commercial and financial measures against Cuba, and is enforcing them even more strictly,

"*Reaffirming* that at the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh meetings of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Havana, 1995; Buenos Aires, 1996; and Lima, 1998, respectively, decisions were adopted in relation to the environmental effects caused by the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba,

"*Decide*

"1. To reiterate the rejection of all extraterritorial measures promulgated against Cuba, which place a constraint on the normal and essential development of relations of cooperation and exchange in environmental matters in the region;

"2. To call for the lifting of the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, so as to allow full implementation of the Cuban National Environment and Development Programme and contribute to the fulfilment of Agenda 21;

"3. To reiterate its deep concern about the effects afflicting Cuba in all spheres of economic, commercial and financial life, and particularly in environmental matters, as a consequence of the embargo."

2. UNEP has been providing support to the Government of Cuba in the following areas: (a) development of a National Biodiversity Strategy; dissemination of information and (b) production of a publication on the Guantanamo land degradation success case study; (c) report on National Climate Change and the Impact of El Niño on Cuba; (d) development of a Cuban Environmental Outlook report; (e) establishment of the UNEP Mercure Satellite Communication System in Cuba.

United Nations Population Fund

[Original: English]
[30 June 2000]

1. Although the Government of Cuba has continued to prioritise the social sectors and social security, the lack of foreign exchange and access to development financing represent major obstacles to Cuba's economic growth and are reflected in the population's daily hardships. Harsh restrictions on imports imposed by the United States embargo also have a direct impact on the reproductive health status of the population.

2. Cuba receives very scant assistance in the population field from sources other than the organizations of the United Nations system. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the main source of assistance to Cuba in the area of sexual and reproductive health, including the supply of contraceptives.

3. The Cuban population has ample knowledge of the most common contraceptive methods and uses mainly intrauterine devices, hormonal contraceptives and condoms. However, the availability of these methods is severely limited, as is the case also with medicines and other equipment and commodities related to sexual and reproductive health, as a result of the restricted access of Cuba to foreign products and suppliers.

4. While the incidence of AIDS is still low in comparison with other countries in the region, the number of HIV-positive cases has been rising since 1998, mainly among males aged 25 to 34. Owing to the economic situation, the number of condoms is considerably insufficient, and currently stands at a figure of roughly 5 million annually, as against the estimated 25 million required to cover needs.

5. In addition, there is a scarcity of education and communication materials to instruct youth on AIDS prevention and on the prevention of unwanted pregnancies. Moreover, the high rate of abortion, particularly among women under age 20, remains a priority issue which must be addressed through greater access to information, counselling and appropriate contraceptive methods. At the present time, UNFPA continues to support efforts by the Government to produce sex education materials for selected provinces, but this is insufficient for coverage of the entire country.

6. Finally, a major issue of concern is Cuba's growing elderly population. Owing in part to the financial restrictions and consequent shortages of all types of materials, the Government is unable to adequately meet the needs of this population group, particularly in the areas of housing, maintenance and equipment for nursing homes and day-care centres.

United Nations A/55/173

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 July 2000
English
Original: English/Spanish

Fifty-fifth session
Item 157 of the provisional agenda*
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General**

Contents

		Page
I.	Introduction	3
II.	Information received from Member States	3
	Austria	3
	Costa Rica	4
	Cyprus	4
	Hungary	4
	Italy	5
	Lebanon	5
	Nicaragua	6
	Norway	6
	Portugal	7

* A/55/150.

** The present report contains the texts of the replies received by 30 June 2000, the deadline set in the notes by the Secretary-General on the subject. The texts of replies received soon after the deadline have also been included.

00-55648 (E) 230800 050900

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 8

Venezuela 9

III. Information received from international organizations 10

International Committee of the Red Cross 10

Annex

List of States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 31 May 2000 20

I. Introduction

1. On 8 December 1998, the General Assembly adopted resolution 53/96 entitled "Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts". In paragraph 9 of the resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the additional Protocols based on information received from Member States and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

2. Pursuant to that request, the Secretary-General, by notes dated 12 February 1999 and 29 February 2000, invited Member States and, by letters dated 17 February 1999 and 3 March 2000, invited the International Committee of the Red Cross to transmit to him by 30 June 2000 the information requested in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 53/96 for inclusion in the report.

3. Replies have been received from Austria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela. A reply has also been received from the International Committee of the Red Cross. The texts of the replies are reproduced in the present report. Any additional replies will be reproduced as addenda to the present report.

4. The list of all States that are parties to the Protocols[1] Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949[2] as at 31 May 2000, as communicated by the competent authorities of the Government of Switzerland, depositary of the Protocols, appears in the annex to the present report.

II. Information received from Member States

Austria

[Original: English]
[30 June 2000]

The provisions of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 have been implemented by the competent national authorities. The following examples illustrate the implementation:

(a) All military training at all levels contains mandatory courses on humanitarian law. Training material and curricula for the training of conscripts, as well as professional staff with respect to international law, are reviewed and adapted on a regular basis;

(b) The regulations for military service in the Austrian Federal Army are checked on a regular basis for their compatibility with "Geneva law". References to international law have been added where necessary. A new chapter on international humanitarian law has been inserted in the official handbook, entitled "General Rules of Conduct for Soldiers in the Field";

(c) The Federal Minister of Defence issued a decree on 10 November 1999 establishing legal advisers within the Austrian Federal Army, thus making possible full compliance with article 82 of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva

Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I).

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]
[11 March 1999]

Both the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II) were adopted by Decree-Law No. 6793 of 19 October 1982.

Cyprus

[Original: English]
[2 May 2000]

Cyprus has ratified both Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949: in 1979 (Protocol I) and in 1995 (Protocol II). The legislation enacted, for violations of the Protocols, provides for life imprisonment for the most serious offences and imprisonment of up to 14 years for the less serious offences.

Hungary

[Original: English]
[20 June 2000]

1. The Government of the Republic of Hungary ratified the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 in 1954 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 in 1989. The Republic of Hungary is party to all major treaties in the field of international humanitarian law and the law of the war. Hungary had made reservations upon the signing of the Geneva Conventions in 1949, which were withdrawn by the Hungarian Parliament by its decision No. 30/2000 of 14 April 2000. The Government of Hungary notified the depositary of the Geneva Conventions about the above-mentioned withdrawal.

2. The Republic of Hungary is party to all major treaties in the field of international humanitarian law, the prohibition of certain weapons, and arms regulation.[3]

3. In conformity with the recommendations of the 26th and 27th International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent on the creation of inter-ministerial advisory committees to ensure the implementation and dissemination of international humanitarian law, the Hungarian Government, by its decision of 9 May 2000, endorsed the establishment of the Hungarian National Advisory Committee on the Dissemination and Implementation of International Humanitarian Law. The Committee's members are the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Social and Family Affairs and

the Hungarian Red Cross. Already in the first quarter of 2000, this national body elaborated its programme of work and rules of procedure and elected its officials.

Italy

[Original: English]
[12 July 2000]

1. Italy ratified both the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (on 17 December 1951) and its Additional Protocols of 1977 (on 27 February 1986).

2. No specific laws have been adopted to adapt any of the instruments indicated to national legislation. However, the Military War-Time Penal Code of 1941 contained measures on "crimes against the usages and customs of war" that assimilate conduct deemed illegal by the 1899 Hague Convention of the same title.

3. The implementation of international humanitarian law, in addition to absorbing the above-mentioned Military Penal Code, has thus far been limited to the following international instruments:

(a) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide[4] (law 962 of 1 September 1967);

(b) Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[5] (law 498 of 3 November 1988);

(c) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination[6] (law 205 of 25 June 1993).

4. Further initiatives to adapt international humanitarian law are being studied by the inter-ministerial commission for the implementation of international law.

5. Italy already has ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the assimilation of which will indirectly make possible adaptation to most of the contents of the two Additional Protocols of 1977.

Lebanon

[Original: English]
[19 March 1999]

On 22 July 1997, the Government of Lebanon deposited its instrument of accession to Additional Protocols I and II to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, adopted in Geneva on 8 June 1977. The Additional Protocols entered into force for Lebanon on 23 January 1998 (six months after the deposit of the instrument of accession).

Nicaragua

[Original: Spanish]
[3 July 2000]

The Republic of Nicaragua, with a view to promoting the application of international humanitarian law, approved and ratified in 1999 Additional Protocols I and II of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and deposited the respective instruments of ratification with the Swiss Federal Council on 19 July 1999. Those Protocols entered into force in Nicaragua on 19 January 2000.

Norway

[Original: English]
[3 July 2000]

1. Norway is a party to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the two Additional Protocols. Further, Norway has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I with regard to the acceptance of the International Fact-Finding Commission.

2. It is of the utmost importance to the Norwegian Government that the obligations of the Additional Protocols as well as the Geneva Conventions are fully respected.

3. Norway focuses on issues related to respect for implementation of the State's obligations in the field of humanitarian law, in multilateral forums as well as bilaterally. Norway is playing an active role in increasing respect for international humanitarian law and is working for universal acceptance of the two Additional Protocols as well as the Geneva Conventions. The issue was thoroughly discussed at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, held in Geneva from 31 October to 6 November 1999.

4. International humanitarian law binding on Norway is implemented in Norwegian law through the following acts:

(a) General Civil Penal Code of 22 May 1902;

(b) Military Penal Code of 22 May 1902;

(c) Act relating to the incorporation into Norwegian law of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the establishment of international tribunals for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda of 24 June 1994.

5. The Norwegian Ministry of Defence and the Headquarters Defence Command in Norway are responsible for implementing international humanitarian law in the Norwegian armed forces.

6. The Chief of Defence of Norway appointed a group of experts overlooking and providing guidance with regard to the obligation set forth in article 35 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions. On the basis of a draft prepared by the group of experts, the Chief of Defence has issued a directive governing the implementation of article 35.

7. The Chief of Defence is in the process of developing a guide for use at the tactical and strategical levels on, inter alia, international humanitarian law. Further, the Chief of Defence has issued a folder to be used by all personnel that may be engaged in combat, highlighting 10 basic rules of international humanitarian law.

8. Training in international humanitarian law is compulsory at every level of the armed forces, both as theory and as an integrated part of exercises. The Chief of Defence has developed courses on international humanitarian law for ground-level personnel (training courses for conscripts and officers). The courses are offered on CD-ROM and/or over the Internet, thus allowing for guidance from experts in the field of international humanitarian law.

9. In addition, the Chief of Defence arranges annually a course on international humanitarian law for high-ranking officers and instructors.

10. Norwegian personnel designated to participate in international operations receive additional training in international humanitarian law: eight hours for officers and two hours for other personnel. International humanitarian law is also an integral part of the other training received by soldiers before they depart to participate in international operations.

Portugal

[Original: English]
[21 April 1999]

Dissemination of international humanitarian law

1. The Council of Ministers created on 14 April 1998 a National Commission for the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education.

2. The Commission is presided over by a "personage of recognized prestige in the defence and promotion of human rights" and composed of several other notable individuals, as well as representatives of Government and non-governmental organizations active in the field of human rights.

3. The Commission's activities have mainly dealt with the dissemination of human rights, but humanitarian law also constitutes a major priority of the Commission:

(a) On 10 December 1998, the Commission organized a seminar on the International Criminal Court;

(b) The programme of activities of the Commission for 1999 had a whole section on the fiftieth anniversary of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and included different activities in relation to the subject, such as the dissemination of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Commission also intends to edit a handbook on international humanitarian law.

4. The Prosecutor-General's Office of Documentation and Comparative Law created on its homepage a section on international humanitarian law, which includes various kinds of information on the subject, such as the basic principles and rules of

international humanitarian law, the historical development of international humanitarian law and information on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Machel study on the effects of armed conflict on children.[7] The homepage also contains the most important international instruments on human rights, refugee and humanitarian law in Portuguese. The homepage is widely visited by students, lawyers and the general public, not only from Portugal but also from all other Portuguese-speaking countries (Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe).

Application of international humanitarian law

5. In accordance with the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, all States parties to those instruments have the competence to bring before trial persons who have committed grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols, according to the principle *aut dedere aut judicare* (extradite or prosecute). For this reason, Portuguese criminal law criminalizes some of the grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and Protocols and establishes the applicability of Portuguese law to some of those grave breaches which have been committed outside Portuguese territory, as long as the agent is found in Portugal and cannot be extradited. Article 5 of the Portuguese Criminal Code (*Facts practised outside the Portuguese territory*), which establishes the applicability of Portuguese law to facts committed outside Portuguese territory, includes the following crimes: incitement to war (article 236), procurement of armed forces (article 237), recruitment of mercenaries (article 238), the crime of genocide (article 239, No.1) and the destruction of monuments (article 242).

Ratification and/or signature of instruments of international humanitarian law

6. On 28 January 1999, Portugal ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.[8]

7. On 7 October 1998, Portugal signed the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]
[6 June 2000]

1. The United Kingdom ratified the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in January 1998. In May 1999, the United Kingdom made a declaration recognizing the competence of the International Fact-Finding Commission established under article 90 of Additional Protocol 1.

2. The Geneva Conventions Act 1957 was amended by the Geneva Conventions (Amendment) Act 1995 to provide for implementation of the Additional Protocols and, in particular, to provide for punishment of grave breaches of Additional Protocol 1.

Venezuela

[Original: Spanish]
[25 May 2000]

1. Venezuela's ratification of the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I), and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II), adopted in Geneva on 10 August 1977, clearly demonstrates the importance that Venezuela attaches to this subject and its interest in promoting the protection of victims of both international and non-international conflicts, as well as respect for the principles of emerging humanitarian law.

2. It must be stressed that Protocols I and II were accepted with a view to adopting basic humanitarian measures and norms in the light of the recognition of international and non-international armed conflicts and also with a view to avoiding suffering and after-effects for civil populations. These Protocols have therefore become mechanisms that guarantee and complement the effectiveness and updating that it is hoped will be achieved in the implementation of international law governing conflicts.

3. The international system does not rule out the existence of armed conflicts that are waged in accordance with the norms of international law, since the principle of the prohibition of the use of force does not exclude all forms of armed confrontation. The effectiveness of these norms has permitted their adaptation to the new social and technological realities, particularly with respect to domestic conflicts.

4. The signing of the headquarters agreement between the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the International Committee of the Red Cross on 18 February 2000 confirms what has been stated above. Although Venezuela has not experienced military conflicts of any kind for the past few decades, it supports the educational activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross through the great efforts and resources it dedicates to the dissemination of the norms of international humanitarian law with a view to ensuring respect for human rights in theatres of armed conflict.

5. It is worth pointing out that the Red Cross is the institution that symbolizes international humanitarian law as an intellectual discipline and a legal reality for people and States. It is seen as man's hope vis-à-vis the modern State, and it seeks to achieve the positive legal objectives of men and women who wish to live and die in dignity at the dawn of the twenty-first century.

6. The work of the International Committee of the Red Cross is *sui generis*, since it is based on moral strength.

7. The so-called "law of Geneva" seeks to counteract deviations in public law by ordering the rational exercise of freedom so that people's basic guarantees are upheld throughout the world. This is why Venezuela believes that international humanitarian law is the international law of solidarity, so that the legal order becomes what it is meant to be: the right of every human being to live in peace, enjoying the benefits of nature in order to meet his or her basic needs and engaging

in universal cooperation irrespective of nationality, race, creed or any other differences that are not inherent to human nature.

III. Information received from international organizations

International Committee of the Red Cross

[Original: English]
[29 June 2000]

1. As part of its humanitarian mission to protect the lives and dignity of the victims of armed conflict, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) strives to develop, promote and strengthen respect for the rules of international humanitarian law. As the guardian of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977, ICRC has an important mandate to fulfil with regard to promoting the ratification of these and other humanitarian law instruments, as well as ensuring that the rules of that law are made widely known and are effectively implemented.

2. In order to promote greater awareness of the principles of humanitarian law, ICRC regularly conducts dissemination programmes that target members of the armed forces, as well as the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, government staff, schools, universities, health-care workers, the mass media and the general public. ICRC has a large number of delegates in the field who specialize in such activities as organizing courses, workshops and training sessions for armed forces and law enforcement personnel around the world. In addition, ICRC works in close conjunction with National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in the design and dissemination of educational materials on humanitarian law for use in schools, youth groups and universities.

3. Following the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 53/96, ICRC took an active part in the negotiations concerning the drafting of the Second Protocol[9] to the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The Second Protocol, which was adopted in The Hague on 26 March 1999, strengthens the 1954 Convention in a number of important ways. Two key advances made by the Second Protocol are its provisions specifying that serious violations of the Protocol will give rise to individual criminal responsibility and its establishment of a new system of enhanced protection for cultural property.

4. The information presented below focuses on the work of ICRC to promote full implementation of the rules of international humanitarian law at the national level, as it is in this area that significant progress has been made in recent years.

Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law

5. The Advisory Service on International Humanitarian Law was established in 1996 as part of the Legal Division of ICRC in order to supplement the resources of Governments by raising awareness of the need for national implementing measures. To this end, it provides specialist advice and promotes the exchange of information between Governments themselves. The Advisory Service consists of a team at ICRC headquarters in Geneva that includes lawyers with training in common-law and

civil-law systems. It also has regional advisers with experience in national implementation, working in the field.

Ratifications

6. The General Assembly has, since 1977, adopted at least 10 resolutions calling upon States to ratify, disseminate and implement the rules set out in the Protocols Additional to the 1949 Geneva Conventions.[10]

7. The Plan of Action adopted by the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in November 1999 reiterated the importance of universal adherence to treaties on humanitarian law and their effective implementation at the national level. The Conference stressed the central role of the ICRC Advisory Service in promoting the ratification of instruments on international humanitarian law and in advising and assisting States in taking the measures necessary for their implementation.

8. As of 9 June 2000, the status of ratification of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 was as follows:

	States
Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949	188
Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I)	156
Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II)	149
Declarations accepting the International Fact-Finding Commission under article 90 of Protocol I	56

9. Other major treaties on international humanitarian law have also been ratified by a significant number of States. As at 9 June 2000, the situation regarding the ratification of those instruments was as follows:

	States
1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict	98
1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	79
1995 Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects "Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)"	49
1996 Amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II as amended) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects	49
1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction	96
1998 Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court	12

Implementation

10. While the initial ratification by States of treaties on humanitarian law constitutes an important first step towards enhancing protection for the victims of armed conflict, the instruments themselves contain certain obligations that require implementation at the national level. The obligations for the States parties to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977 include a commitment: to adopt the legislative measures needed to repress grave breaches of those treaties on the basis of universal jurisdiction; to ensure respect for the protective emblems and the persons and places protected by them; to define and guarantee the status of protected persons; to guarantee the humane treatment of all persons during armed conflict; to ensure that fundamental judicial guarantees are respected in times of armed conflict; to provide training in humanitarian law; to appoint legal advisers to the armed forces; and to disseminate the provisions of the Conventions and Protocols as widely as possible.

National and regional seminars on international humanitarian law

11. As part of its activities to promote the domestic implementation of international humanitarian law, the Advisory Service regularly organizes both regional and national seminars for government ministers, civil servants and members of parliament, the judiciary and the armed forces. Civil defence organizations, academics and other sectors of the community involved with humanitarian law have also been encouraged to participate in the seminar. The seminars are organized in cooperation with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Societies in the host countries or regions. There have been more than 70 seminars to date.

12. The objectives of the national and regional seminars are: to stress the importance of the national implementation of international humanitarian law at all levels of State competence; to analyse existing measures, identify needs and plan future action regarding implementation; to establish networks of persons involved in

national implementation and encourage the creation of national committees on humanitarian law; and to provide basic training in international humanitarian law for State officials.

13. The seminars have resulted in the submission of reports containing conclusions and recommendations for the national authorities in the countries of the host region or State. The reports serve as valuable tools for the Advisory Service, both in its continuing dialogue with national governments and in the development of specific plans of action tailored to the needs of the State concerned. The Advisory Service also engages in follow-up activities in order to ensure that the recommendations of the seminars are carried out. The activities have included providing documentation on international humanitarian law and national implementing legislation, facilitating the exchange of information, and providing assistance in translating treaties into national languages.

National commissions for international humanitarian law

14. The number of national commissions or committees for the implementation of humanitarian law has increased significantly since the Advisory Service was created in 1996. There are currently 56 such bodies in existence worldwide. While their structure varies considerably from one country to another, they generally consist of representatives of different government departments, the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, academics and, frequently, members of the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society.

15. These national committees have been instrumental in continuing the work of national and regional seminars on international humanitarian law by advising Governments and providing them with ongoing support on issues related to their adherence to instruments on humanitarian law, promoting the incorporation of the provisions of such treaties into national law and disseminating of the rules of international humanitarian law.

Meetings of experts

16. Each year since its inception in 1996, the ICRC Advisory Service has hosted a meeting of experts on the national implementation of humanitarian law. The first meeting, was held following resolution 1 of the 26th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, which emphasized the need to strengthen the implementation of and respect for international humanitarian law through, inter alia, the organization of meetings, workshops and other activities.

17. The specific focus of the meeting of experts varies each year. In 1996, the experts discussed national mechanisms of implementation; in 1997, the topic was the penal repression of violations of humanitarian law in civil-law countries; and in 1998, the question of the common-law approach to the repression of war crimes was addressed. In 2000, a meeting will be held on the national implementation of rules for the protection of cultural property during armed conflict.

18. The primary objective of each meeting of experts is to provide experts with an opportunity for dialogue and the in-depth study of a defined issue. The meetings have all resulted in reports, proposals and recommendations for States concerning the practical implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level.

Technical assistance

19. The Advisory Service offers technical assistance to States wishing to incorporate international humanitarian law into their domestic legislation. This assistance is provided at the request of and in close consultation with the national authorities involved, thus ensuring that the proposed amendments or revisions are compatible with the domestic legal environment.

20. The translation of humanitarian treaties into national languages is an essential first step towards the incorporation of these instruments into domestic law. The Advisory Service has been involved in translating the texts into many different languages. Generally, the translations have been undertaken jointly with the National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society or with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. When the translation has been completed, the national authorities in the State concerned are responsible for officially endorsing and publishing the treaties and making them widely available. Official translations of instruments of international humanitarian law should be forwarded to the relevant depositary in order to allow all States parties to consult them.

21. To facilitate implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level, the Advisory Service conducts studies, in close cooperation with the national authorities concerned, of the compatibility of domestic legislation with the obligations flowing from treaties on international humanitarian law. More than 50 of the studies have been carried out so far. The studies are frequently undertaken in conjunction with local experts. With the consent of the authorities concerned, the completed studies are made available for consultation, dissemination and discussion with national authorities at seminars and other meetings.

22. In addition to the country studies described above, the Advisory Service also provides legal advice to States on various issues relating to international humanitarian law, including the penal repression of war crimes, protecting the emblems associated with the Geneva Conventions and other humanitarian treaties, and other questions concerning the national implementation of humanitarian law.

23. ICRC was involved in the negotiating process leading to the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998 and has since taken an active role in the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, particularly in relation to the drafting of the document on elements of crimes. The Advisory Service has offered technical assistance to States wishing to ratify the Rome Statute in order to enable them to adapt their penal legislation in accordance with its requirements.

24. Information on the legal advice provided and the States that have requested such advice is included in the annual report of the Advisory Service.

Information exchange

25. Collecting and exchanging information on the measures adopted by States to implement international humanitarian law at the national level is an essential part of the Advisory Service's work.

26. The Advisory Service is currently in possession of legislation, jurisprudence, studies and military manuals from more than 140 countries. This documentation has been catalogued in a searchable database. It can also be found in a bibliography of

articles and other works on national implementation of humanitarian law, in a table listing national committees for such implementation and in the document collection catalogue.

27. The database of documentation on national implementation supplements the general database on instruments of international humanitarian law. It contains laws, regulations, jurisprudence, other material relevant to implementation at the national level and a general commentary on the legal system of each country covered. Documents in the database that have been drafted in English, French or Spanish are presented in their original language. Where this is not the case, a translation into either English or French is provided. The database may be consulted on the Internet at *http://www.icrc.org*, on CD-ROM or in person at ICRC headquarters in Geneva. To date, information on national implementation has been collected for 25 countries, representing both common-law and civil-law systems. The data are regularly updated and information on other countries is added when the necessary documentation and analysis have been received from the Advisory Service's network of contributing correspondents.

Publications

28. The Advisory Service produces a range of publications aimed at promoting implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level and at increasing awareness of the need for such implementation among political authorities and academics, non-governmental organizations and other segments of civil society.

29. In order to explain the most important elements of international humanitarian law in a clear and concise manner, the Advisory Service has developed a series of fact sheets outlining the treaty provisions that require national implementing measures. The fact sheets, which are available on the Internet at *http://www.icrc.org*, have been translated into a number of languages. They cover each of the principal instruments of humanitarian law, as well as several broad themes of humanitarian law, including national implementation, protecting the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, the International Fact-Finding Commission, penal repression and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

30. The Advisory Service has also produced detailed technical guidelines, information kits and model laws in order to assist the States in the domestic implementation of international humanitarian law. Thus far, an information kit on the national enforcement of international humanitarian law, guiding principles for national humanitarian law commissions, model laws on the use and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, guidelines for the drafting of Geneva Conventions acts and a model Geneva Conventions act have been developed.

31. In 1999, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the ICRC jointly published a handbook for parliamentarians entitled *Respect for International Humanitarian Law*. The handbook provides an overview of international humanitarian law and goes on to outline seven concrete measures that parliaments can take in order to comply with and ensure compliance with its provisions. The measures include ratifying treaties on humanitarian law, encouraging the national implementation of the rules set out in those treaties, ensuring that the legislation necessary to punish violations of humanitarian law is adopted, assisting in the creation of national commissions on humanitarian law and taking action to obtain universal respect for international

humanitarian law. The final section of the handbook contains model instruments of ratification for different humanitarian treaties, as well as a model law concerning the use and protection of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems. The handbook has been translated into numerous languages and is currently being distributed to parliamentarians around the world.

32. In addition to the publications outlined above, the ICRC Advisory Service also produces a number of reports in order to publicize its various activities and the findings of the different studies, meetings of experts and seminars conducted under its auspices.

Regional organizations

33. Recent resolutions on the national implementation of international humanitarian law have been adopted by regional organizations, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of African Unity, the League of Arab States and the Council of Europe. The ICRC Advisory Service has played a role in urging regional organizations to promote the national implementation of humanitarian law and this call has been taken up in a number of those regional forums.[11]

34. Regional organizations continue to play an important role in encouraging the States in their regions to take measures to implement international humanitarian law at the national level.

Pledges received at the 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

35. The 27th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent was held in Geneva from 31 October to 6 November 1999. The International Conference, which usually takes place every four years, brings together all of the components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, that is, ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. One of the most important initiatives of the 27th International Conference was to ask each participant to turn goodwill into specific humanitarian commitment by making a pledge. The response to that call for pledges was very positive, with a total of 390 such commitments being received, 163 from National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, 85 from Governments, 1 from ICRC, 1 from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and 9 from observers at the International Conference.

36. The overwhelming majority of the 85 pledges received from Governments during the 27th International Conference contained commitments to ratify humanitarian treaties and to adopt appropriate implementing measures in order to give effect to those international obligations at the national level. The pledges by States concerning national implementation focused in the main on measures to repress war crimes, protect the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems, set up and continue supporting national commissions on humanitarian law and develop programmes to teach and disseminate international humanitarian law.

37. ICRC and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will actively follow up the implementation of the pledges made by

participants at the 27th International Conference. The ICRC Advisory Service will continue to promote the universal ratification of humanitarian treaties and to work with States, providing them with the advice and assistance necessary to ensure the full implementation of international humanitarian law at the national level.

Notes

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

[2] *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

[3] The major treaties are as follows:

(a) Hague Conventions I and II of 29 July 1899 (see Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915)) (signed by Hungary on 29 July 1899 and ratified by Hungary on 4 September 1900);

(b) Declaration concerning Asphyxiating Gases (Hague Declaration II) (signed by Hungary on 29 July 1899 and ratified by Hungary on 4 September 1900);

(c) Declaration concerning Expanding Bullets (Hague Declaration III) (signed by Hungary on 29 July 1899 and ratified by Hungary on 4 September 1900);

(d) Hague Conventions III-XI and XIII of 18 October 1907 (see Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915)) (signed by Hungary on 18 October 1907 and ratified by Hungary on 27 November 1909);

(e) Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925 (League of Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138) (acceded to by Hungary on 11 October 1952);

(f) Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 78, No. 1021), adopted on 9 December 1948) (acceded to by Hungary on 7 January 1952);

(g) Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973) (signed by Hungary on 12 August 1949 and ratified by Hungary on 3 August 1954);

(h) Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511), done at The Hague on 14 May 1954 (signed by Hungary on 14 May 1954 and ratified by Hungary on 17 May 1956);

(i) Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done at The Hague on 14 May 1954 (acceded to by Hungary on 16 August 1956);

(j) Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (General Assembly 2391 (XXIII) of 26 November 1968) (signed by Hungary on 25 March 1969 and ratified by Hungary on 24 June 1969);

(k) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC/CONF.III/23, part II), opened for signature at London, Moscow and Washington on 10 April 1972 (signed by Hungary on 10 April 1972 and ratified by Hungary on 27 December 1972);

(l) Convention on the Prohibition of Military or Any Other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques (General Assembly resolution 31/72 of 1976) (signed by Hungary on 18 May 1977 and ratified by Hungary on 19 April 1978);

(m) Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Protocol I) (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17512) and the Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II) (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17513), of 8 June 1977 (signed by Hungary on 12 December 1977 and ratified by Hungary on 12 April 1989);

(n) Declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I (declaration made by Hungary on 23 September 1991);

(o) Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (see *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII), concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980 (signed by Hungary on 10 April 1980 and ratified by Hungary on 14 June 1982);

(p) Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I) (see *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII), concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980 (signed by Hungary on 10 April 1981 and ratified by Hungary on 14 June 1982);

(q) Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) (see *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII), concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980 (signed by Hungary on 10 April 1981 and ratified by Hungary on 14 June 1982);

(r) Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) (see *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII), concluded at Geneva on 10 October 1980 (signed by Hungary on 10 April 1981 and ratified by Hungary on 14 June 1982);

(s) Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects "Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)" (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex A), adopted on 13 October 1995 (acceded to by Hungary on 30 January 1998);

(t) Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) (CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex B), annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (acceded to by Hungary on 30 January 1998);

(u) Convention on the Rights of the Child (General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989) (signed by Hungary on 14 March 1990 and ratified by Hungary on 7 October 1991);

(v) Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27* (A/47/27), appendix I), opened for signature at Paris on 13 January 1993 (signed by Hungary on 13 January 1993 and ratified by Hungary on 31 October 1996);

(w) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (see CD/1478), concluded at Oslo on 18 September 1977 (signed by Hungary on 3 December 1977 and ratified by Hungary on 6 April 1998);

(x) Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (A/CONF.183/9), adopted in Rome on 17 July 1998 (signed by Hungary on 15 January 1999);

(y) Second Protocol to the Hague Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, done at The Hague on 26 March 1999 (signed by Hungary on 19 May 1999).

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 78, No. 1021.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

[6] Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

[7] The comprehensive study of the impact of armed conflict on children being undertaken by Graça Machel and the Centre for Human Rights of the Secretariat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993.

[8] See CD/1478.

[9] *International Legal Materials*, vol. 38 (1999), p. 769.

[10] General Assembly resolutions 32/44 of 8 December 1977, 34/51 of 23 November 1979, 31/116 of 16 December 1982, 39/77 of 13 December 1984, 41/72 of 3 December 1986, 43/161 of 9 December 1988, 45/38 of 28 November 1990, 47/30 of 25 November 1992, 49/48 of 9 December 1994 and 51/155 of 16 December 1996.

[11] For example, in paragraph 8 of its resolution entitled "Promotion of and respect for international humanitarian law", adopted on 5 June 2000 (AG/Res.1706 (XXX-O/00)), the OAS General Assembly invited member States to continue to cooperate with the International Committee of the Red Cross in its various spheres of responsibility and to facilitate its work, in particular, by using its advisory services to support States' efforts to implement international humanitarian law.

Annex

List of States parties to the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 as at 31 May 2000[a]

State	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Albania	16 July 1993
Algeria[b,c]	16 August 1989
Angola[b] (Protocol I only)	20 September 1984
Antigua and Barbuda	6 October 1986
Argentina[b,c]	26 November 1986
Armenia	7 June 1993
Australia[b,c]	21 June 1991
Austria[b,c]	13 August 1982
Bahamas	10 April 1980
Bahrain	30 October 1986
Bangladesh	8 September 1980
Barbados	19 February 1990
Belarus[c]	23 October 1989
Belgium[b,c]	20 May 1986
Belize	29 June 1984
Benin	28 May 1986
Bolivia[c]	8 December 1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina[c]	31 December 1992
Botswana	23 May 1979
Brazil[c]	5 May 1992
Brunei Darussalam	14 October 1991
Bulgaria[c]	26 September 1989
Burkina Faso	20 October 1987
Burundi	10 June 1993
Cambodia	14 January 1998
Cameroon	16 March 1984
Canada[b,c]	20 November 1990
Cape Verde[c]	16 March 1995
Central African Republic	17 July 1984
Chad	17 January 1997
Chile[c]	24 April 1991

State	Date of ratification, accession or succession
China[b]	14 September 1983
Colombia (Protocol I)[c]	1 September 1993
(Protocol II)	14 August 1995
Comoros	21 November 1983
Congo	10 November 1983
Costa Rica[c]	15 December 1983
Côte d'Ivoire	20 September 1989
Croatia[c]	11 May 1992
Cuba (Protocol I)	25 November 1982
(Protocol II)	23 June 1999
Cyprus (Protocol I)	1 June 1979
(Protocol II)	18 March 1996
Czech Republic[c]	5 February 1993
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Protocol I only)	9 March 1988
Democratic Republic of the Congo (Protocol I only)	3 June 1982
Denmark[b,c]	17 June 1982
Djibouti	8 April 1991
Dominica	25 April 1996
Dominican Republic	26 May 1994
Ecuador	10 April 1979
Egypt[b]	9 October 1992
El Salvador	23 November 1978
Equatorial Guinea	24 July 1986
Estonia	18 January 1993
Ethiopia	8 April 1994
Finland[b,c]	7 August 1980
France[b] (Protocol II only)	24 February 1984
Gabon	8 April 1980
Gambia	12 January 1989
Georgia	14 September 1993
Germany[b,c]	14 February 1991
Ghana	28 February 1978
Greece (Protocol I)[c]	31 March 1989
(Protocol II)	15 February 1993

State	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Grenada	27 September 1998
Guatemala	19 October 1987
Guinea[c]	11 July 1984
Guinea-Bissau	21 October 1986
Guyana	18 January 1988
Holy See[b]	21 November 1985
Honduras	16 February 1995
Hungary[c]	12 April 1989
Iceland[b,c]	10 April 1987
Ireland[b,c]	19 May 1999
Italy[b,c]	27 February 1986
Jamaica	29 July 1986
Jordan	1 May 1979
Kazakhstan	5 May 1992
Kenya	23 February 1999
Kuwait	17 January 1985
Kyrgyzstan	18 September 1992
Lao People's Democratic Republic[c]	18 November 1980
Latvia	24 December 1991
Lebanon	23 July 1997
Lesotho	20 May 1994
Liberia	30 June 1988
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	7 June 1978
Liechtenstein[b,c]	10 August 1989
Luxembourg[c]	29 August 1989
Madagascar[c]	8 May 1992
Malawi	7 October 1991
Maldives	3 September 1991
Mali	8 February 1989
Malta[b,c]	17 April 1989
Mauritania	14 March 1980
Mauritius	22 March 1982
Mexico (Protocol I only)	10 March 1983
Micronesia (Federated States of)	19 September 1995

State	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Monaco	7 January 2000
Mongolia[b,c]	6 December 1995
Mozambique (Protocol I only)	14 March 1983
Namibia[c]	17 June 1994
Netherlands[b,c]	26 June 1987
New Zealand[b,c]	8 February 1988
Nicaragua	19 July 1999
Niger	8 June 1979
Nigeria	10 October 1988
Norway[c]	14 December 1981
Oman[b]	29 March 1984
Palau	25 June 1996
Panama	18 September 1995
Paraguay[c]	30 November 1990
Peru	14 July 1989
Philippines (Protocol II only)	11 December 1986
Poland[c]	23 October 1991
Portugal[c]	27 May 1992
Qatar[b,c] (Protocol I only)	5 April 1988
Republic of Korea[b]	15 January 1982
Republic of Moldova	24 May 1993
Romania[c]	21 June 1990
Russian Federation[b,c]	29 September 1989
Rwanda[c]	19 November 1984
Saint Kitts and Nevis	14 February 1986
Saint Lucia	7 October 1982
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8 April 1983
Samoa	23 August 1984
San Marino	5 April 1994
Sao Tome and Principe	5 July 1996
Saudi Arabia[b] (Protocol I only)	21 August 1987
Senegal	7 May 1985
Seychelles[c]	8 November 1984
Sierra Leone	21 October 1986

State	Date of ratification, accession or succession
Slovakia[c]	2 April 1993
Slovenia[c]	26 March 1992
Solomon Islands	19 September 1988
South Africa	21 November 1995
Spain[b,c]	21 April 1989
Suriname	16 December 1985
Swaziland	2 November 1995
Sweden[b,c]	31 August 1979
Switzerland[b,c]	17 February 1982
Syrian Arab Republic[b] (Protocol I only)	14 November 1983
Tajikistan	13 January 1993
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia[b,c]	1 September 1993
Togo[c]	21 June 1984
Tunisia	9 August 1979
Turkmenistan	10 April 1992
Uganda	13 March 1991
Ukraine[c]	25 January 1990
United Arab Emirates[b,c]	9 March 1983
United Kingdom[b,c]	28 January 1998
United Republic of Tanzania	15 February 1983
Uruguay[c]	13 December 1985
Uzbekistan	8 October 1993
Vanuatu	28 February 1985
Venezuela	23 July 1998
Viet Nam (Protocol I only)	19 October 1981
Yemen	17 April 1990
Yugoslavia[b]	11 June 1979
Zambia	4 May 1995
Zimbabwe	19 October 1992

* As communicated by the competent authorities of the Government of Switzerland, depositary of the Protocols. By a note dated 15 August 1990, the Permanent Observer Mission of Switzerland informed the Secretary-General as follows:

"On 21 June 1989, the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs received a communication of 14 June 1989 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations Office at Geneva concerning Palestine's participation in the four Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and their two additional Protocols of 8 June 1977. On

18 September 1989, the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs sent to the States parties to the Conventions an information note of 13 September 1989 regarding this communication, accompanied by the text of the latter. In the information note, the Swiss Federal Council, depositary of the Conventions, brings to the attention of the States parties that it is not in a position to settle the question whether the communication should be considered an instrument of accession within the meaning of the relevant provisions of the Conventions and their Additional Protocols."

[b] Ratification, accession or succession accompanied by a reservation and/or a declaration.

[c] Party which has made the declaration provided for under article 90 of Protocol I.

United Nations A/55/173/Corr.1

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 September 2000

English, Russian and Spanish only

Fifty-fifth session
Item 157 of the provisional agenda*
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts

Report of the Secretary-General

Corrigendum

Annex

For the Comoros, the date *should read* 21 November 1985

---

* A/55/150 and Corr.1 and 2.

00-63662 (E) 120900